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A close-up, high-contrast image of a red, textured surface, likely a book cover or endpaper, featuring a prominent circular hole in the center. The surface has a fine, irregular texture and some darker, smudged areas around the hole.

SF

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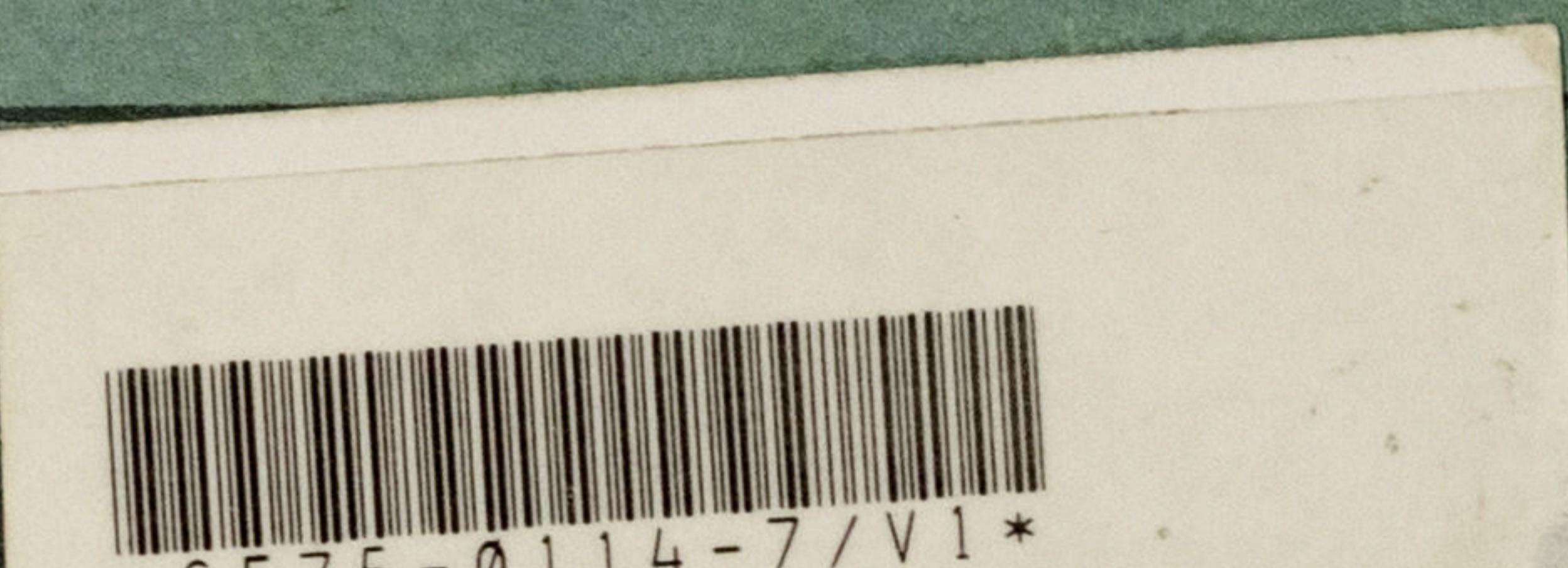
# ARCHIVES

# APPRECIATIONS OF THE SECURITY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM JEWISH TERRORISM, JEWISH ILLLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

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# See Also

SF 5014 55 B3A ~~Fortnightly Intelligence Summaries delivered~~



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# LIMITED CIRCULATION

Please refer to S. Form 239 before sending this file to another Section.

6 Form 23SD/3m 10.67

8 Form 238 2m 8.68

# Y FILE

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HELD by R.5 A.

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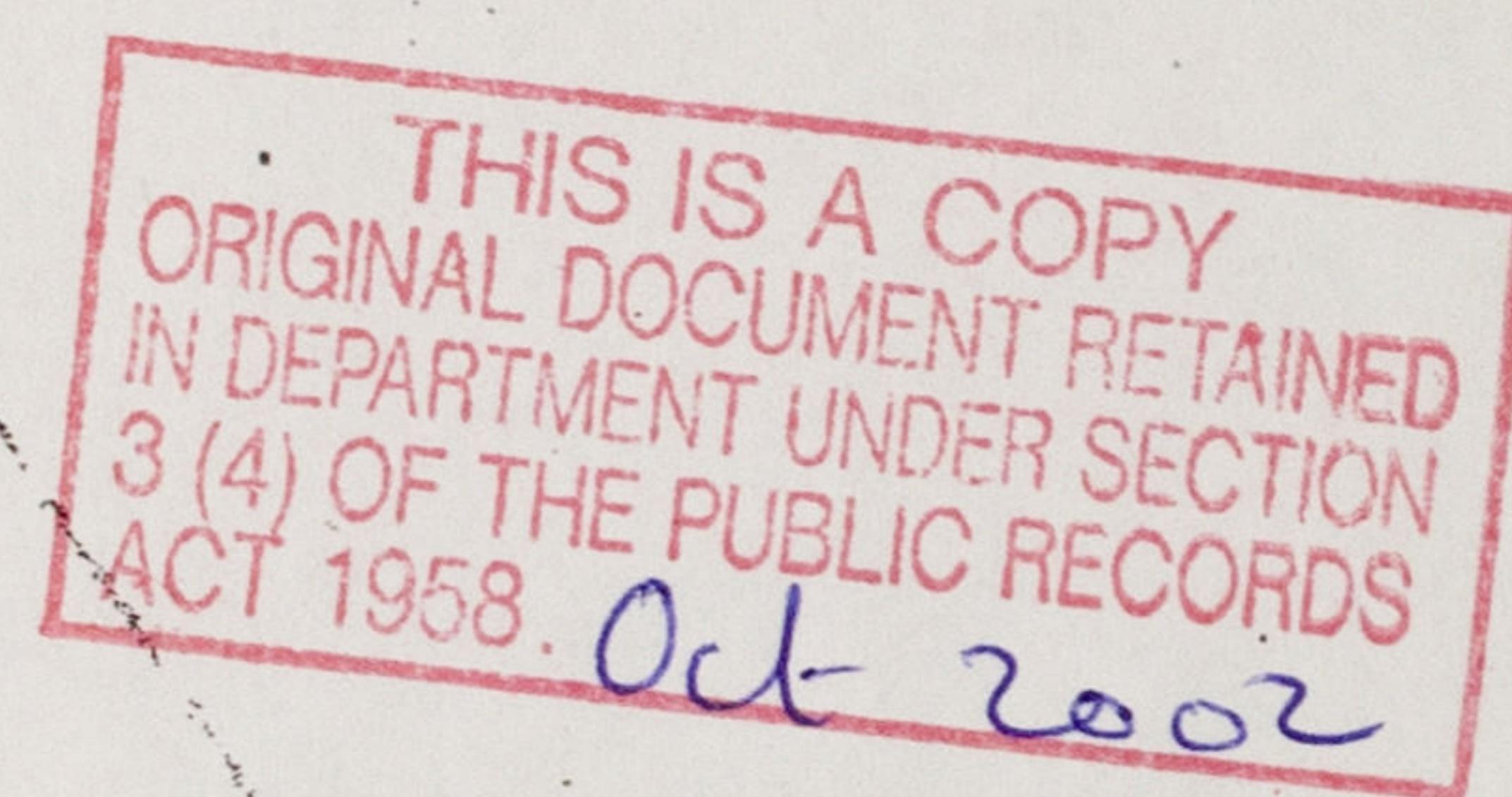


1.

August 1946. Notes for Director-General's Meeting with the Prime Minister. 1a.

7.1.47. Lecture on Jewish Extremist and Terrorist Activities. 1b<sup>1</sup>

2.

31.3.47. From Brigadier attaching report for submission to C.I.G.S. 2a.  
re the security situation in Palestine with particular reference to  
counter Terrorism and Illegal Immigration.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
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ACT 1958 Oct 2002

Par. 215  
Date 23/1  
B.3 a. Mr. Carstairs.  
SO/B3 Mr. T.A. Robertson.

J.S.

You may file, no communication

B2

28/1

X

1. Mr. Robertson asked me to read the attached report on the "Security Situation in Palestine" (sent by Brigadier to D.B.), and to comment on it as follows:-

(a) How accurate is the information contained in the report regarding illegal immigration.

(b) To what extent has action suggested, with a view to stopping illegal immigration, been taken already.

2. The reference in para.10 to an agreement in Europe in 1946 between the Jewish Agency and Revisionist illegal immigration organisations is - I understand - based on a F.O.G. message of more than a year ago. More recent F.O.G. information, as well as information from non F.O.G. sources, reveals that relations between the two organisations is extremely strained, and I very much doubt \* whether the sailing of the "ABRIL" was the result of co-operation between the two organisations. The figures given in para.12 are a reasonable estimate, come from a source known to us, and approximate to our own estimates of the numbers of illegal immigrants likely to arrive this year (based on the estimated carrying capacity of the ships known or suspected to be available, and on the concentrations of intending immigrants in Maritime countries.)

3. Para.13(a) is misleading if it implies that the Russians are deliberately and methodically assisting the illegal emigration of Jews from territory under their control. The principal reservoirs under Russian control are, of course, in Poland (approximately 25,000) and Roumania (no figures available but considerably less than in Poland); not all of these Polish Jews are on the move.

4. Para.13(b) is inaccurate. There are some 25,000 Jewish D.P.s in Italy, 22,000 in the U.S. Zone of Austria alone and about 140,000 in the U.S. Zone of Germany. Not all of these D.P.s are concentrated in semi-autonomous camps. A very large number - possibly even a majority - are in U.N.R.R.A. controlled camps and not in Zionist-run Hachsharoth.

5. Paras.13 (c) (d) and (e) are substantially correct.

6. Para.15 lists some suggestions for the control of immigrants. Sub-para.(a) is covered by proposals already made by the Foreign Office for the working of the new I.R.O. in the British Zones of Austria and Germany and - it is to be hoped - other countries concerned. It is also covered fairly satisfactorily by recent Italian assurances and less satisfactorily in the recent French conversations.

7. Sub-para.(b) is desirable but likely to be vitiated by prior agreements made by the French, Belgium and Italian Governments (for instance) with Jewish refugee organisations to allocate a floating quota of immigrant Jews in their countries.

8. Sub-para.(c) . The French Government will not reconsider their quota of 8,000 and rely at present on the bona fides of the Central Refugee Organisation in France, with which they concluded the agreement, rather than on proof of possession of genuine travel

/documents

\* See also F.O.G. Summary No. 10 of 22.5.47, or OF 607/1/Link, under heading IIc "Relations with Revisionists" (para. 12).

[P.T. Over.]

documents and of reservations with shipping firms. I do not think the last point has ever been taken up, and I do not know of any approach having been made to the Belgian Government similar to that made recently to the French.

9. Sub-para.(d) has been partly met in so far as the French have agreed to submit, if not nominal rolls, similar particulars. A similar request has already been made to the Italian Government. I think this precaution is likely to prove ineffective, since the organisers will adopt a new tactic of providing one set of (false) names for the French authorities, and a completely different set of (false) names for the Palestine authorities, both sets of names relating to the same group of illegal immigrants.

10. Para.16(a). Withdrawal of registration is effective only if the port authorities exercise proper control. For instance, it seems to have been effective in the case of the "SAN BASILIO" at Gothenburg, where the Swedes will not release her until she again acquires some nationality; on the other hand it was not effective in the case of the "SAN FILIPO", which was allowed to leave Marseilles after Panamanian registration had been withdrawn. Withdrawal of registration should, therefore, be followed closely by representations to the Government of the country in which the particular ship is lying.

11. Para.16(b). The only means so far found of detaining suspected ships in British ports have been as follows:-

(i) A "go-slow" order on repairs and refitting, issued through the Admiralty.

(ii) Delays in supply of coal bunkers.

Neither of these methods is sufficient, and what is needed is a more radical approach to the problem, preferably one allowing for the actual arrest of the ship.

12. The names of intending purchasers of ships about to be sold by the Admiralty and Ministry of Transport are now referred to M.I.5 before the sale is authorised.

13. Para.17. A list of known organisers likely to circulate in the U.K. has already been prepared so that as many facilities as possible can be denied to them. Similar steps should be taken overseas as suggested by Brigadier M.I.6 have the relevant information.

14. Paras.18 to 21. I agree with these conclusions in so far as they deal with illegal immigration.

B.3.a.  
22.5.47

4.

*D.J. Scherr*

D.J. Scherr.

*50/33* *This letter is dated 21/5/47, since when the Cabinet Committee on illegal immigration has been formed, I feel that, whenever possible, it should be left to the Cabinet to express an authoritative opinion on future immigration policy and the measures which should be adopted. Otherwise there is likely to be a crossing of fingers. M.I.3 have already disagreed with our figures, and expressed their intention of informing G.O.C. M.E.F. accordingly.*

[P.T. Over.]

*Anon. 22/5/47.*

5.

Dec.47. Notes for lecture fo Police re work of M.E. Section.

5a.

6.

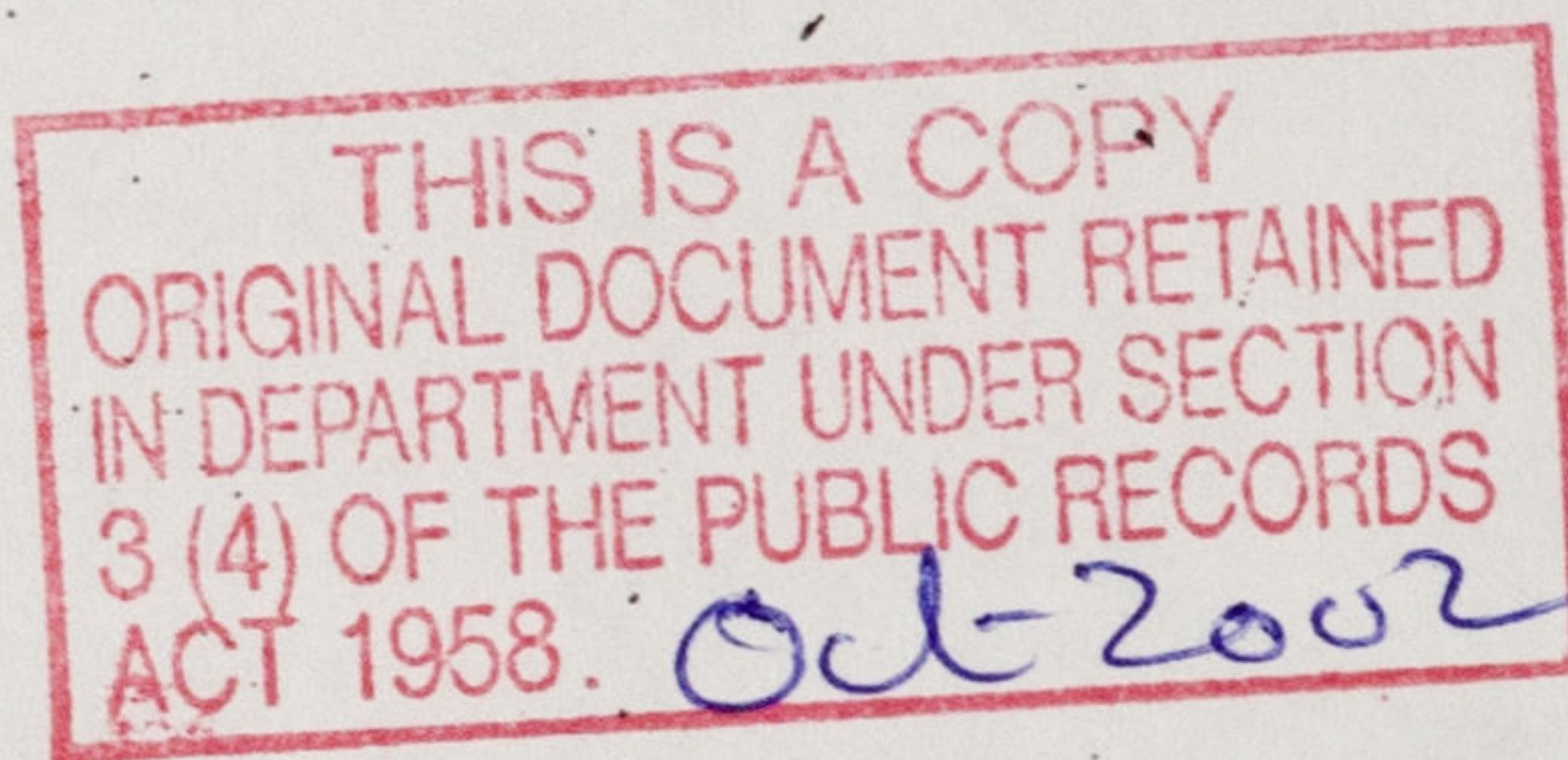
8.1.48. Notes on Jewish Activities for D.G.'s lecture to Police at Taunton.

6a.

7.

16.3.48. Lecture on Zionist Subversive Activities.

7a.



7a

## ZIONIST SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

### INTRODUCTION

I should like to begin by reminding you that the subject upon which I am proposing to talk is that of "Zionist subversive activities". This title has been chosen with some care, and I would emphasise the words "Zionist" and "subversive". M.I.5 are not of course concerned with the activities of Jews as such. Nor does M.I.5 devote time to studying Zionist activities as a whole, except where these are definitely of a subversive nature or prejudicial to the defence plans of the British Empire. There is nothing illegal in Zionism as a political creed. It only comes within our province when the activities of some of its extremist supporters qualify beyond doubt to be described as secret, subversive or illegal, and thus a danger to the security of the Empire and of this country.

Even within these limitations, however, the field of Zionist subversive activities is a very large one - too large for me to make any attempt to cover it as a whole in the course of a short talk. Broadly, we have found it convenient to examine it under four main headings - Zionist subversive propaganda and political activities, illegal immigration, Zionist intelligence and Zionist terrorist activities.

Of these four headings, it is the last -terrorist activities - which is probably of greatest interest to you as Police Officers. It is under this heading that I propose to confine the greater part of my talk.

### JEWISH TERRORIST

#### ACTIVITIES -

#### LIMIT OF M.I.5

#### RESPONSIBILITY

Counter-terrorism is of course properly speaking no part of the work of the Security Service. The detection and prevention of terrorist acts clearly falls to the Home Office and to the Police, and this question of policy was formally agreed last year as between my Director-General and Scotland Yard. M.I.5 have nevertheless, I think, been able to assist the Police to some effect in carrying out their responsibilities in this direction, by passing on information obtained from secret sources, usually in the course of enquiries into the activities of individuals or organisations not themselves known to have terrorist intentions, but whose subversive political

tendencies have caused them to be a fit subject of study by the Security Service.

LIKELIHOOD  
THAT JEWISH  
TERRORISM WILL  
CONTINUE TO BE  
A DANGER

When the Government announced its intention of surrendering the Palestine Mandate on May 15th, and of withdrawing all British troops from the country by August 1st, our first feeling was to some extent one of relief, in that it seemed that there would shortly cease to be a reason for Great Britain continuing to be a target for terrorist activities. It had long been the object of the terrorists to remove the British Government and forces from Palestine, and with this object in sight, it seemed reasonable to expect that we would no longer be regarded by the IRGUN ZVAI LAKHI and STERN Group as Public Enemy No. 1. Events, however, seem likely to prove this assumption wrong. However logical it might have been, the Jewish terrorists are unfortunately not logical people. There has not in the past been much evidence of reason in their selection of persons or buildings as symbols of British rule and as therefore qualified for attack. Their conception of the British as their primary enemy is deep-rooted and will not be so easily eliminated. There are signs, moreover, that the political situation will not be lacking in what they themselves may choose to regard as grounds for continued grievances against this country. For example, the United Nations Palestine Commission, in its report to U.N.C., recommended that a free port should be granted to the Jews by February 1st in order to assist immigration. From the British point of view, there were obvious difficulties in acceding to this request, since port facilities in Palestine were bound to be needed for the evacuation of British troops and stores, which in any event can only be complete with difficulty by the time of our final departure. Accordingly, Sir Alexander Cadogan made it known recently at Lake Success that His Majesty's Government were unable to comply with this request, and that no free Jewish port would therefore be granted. This, I fear, is bound to be regarded by the Jews as provocative step on our part. More important, it will give a reason for the continuation of illegal immigration at least until the time when British

rule in Palestine ceases. Continued illegal immigration will mean a continued necessity for Naval and Military plans to intercept and dispose of Jews attempting to reach Palestine by sea, and thus entail a prolonged danger of clashes with the terrorists and with the HAGANA, the defence force of the Jewish Agency. Immigration has always been the sore spot of the Zionist, and as long as it is British policy to restrict it, so long will they continue to regard the British as their enemies.

Nor is this question of immigration likely to be the only Jewish grievance against us. Already, Zionist propaganda is active in accusations against the Government of partiality in permitting the supply of arms to the Arabs, while an embargo is placed upon the export of weapons and military supplies to the Jewish forces. In particular, the American ban on the export of arms to the Jews is pointed out as being unfair, it being also hinted that this policy has been developed as the result of British pressure. The fact that the Arab Legion is led and staffed by British officers is singled out as an example of a general British policy of secretly supporting the Arabs to the detriment of the Jews. In general, Great Britain is accused of a perfidious desire to see the U.N.O. plan frustrated and the Arabs emerge the dominant power in the Middle East.

These are reasons enough - at least in the eyes of the Jewish extremists - for the terrorists to continue to direct their activities against us at least until August 1st, the date upon which, in theory, British troops are to be finally withdrawn. It now appears uncertain whether that date will be final. On this subject, I am not in possession of official information, but I feel there may be some truth in recent newspaper reports hinting that British troops and administrators will be at least morally bound to play a major part in the maintenance of security in Palestine for a considerable time after the date formerly regarded as that of final evacuation. In the report submitted to the Security Council by the United Nations Palestine Commission on February 16th, the Commission rightly pointed out that they could not assume responsibility for enforcement of the partition

plan without some impartial military force to keep the Jews and Arabs apart. As the Mandate will have ended on May 15th, such a force must obviously be international in character. It would be impossible for it to bear any national label; least of all could it be an official British force. The fact however remains that the British have had thirty years' experience of rule in Palestine, and have been responsible up till now for the whole of the development of the governmental system of that country. British troops and British Police alone possess the experience necessary for keeping order in the supremely difficult conditions which apply there. Even if, therefore, the force whose aid the United Nations Commission have requested is formally an international one, it seems inevitable that a part of its make-up must be British. And even if the Government has no official responsibility for the policy under which that force will operate - for the policy will, of course, be a U.N.O. policy - the continued presence of British troops, Police or administrators in Palestine, though only so to speak on loan to U.N.O., is more than likely to be regarded by the terrorists as sufficient reason for continued attacks against us. As in the past, such attacks may not be confined to Palestine itself. In this connection it is perhaps significant that there has been as yet no sign of any disbandment of those terrorist organisations which are known to us to be operating in Europe, including this country.

OUTLINE OF  
TERRORIST AND  
ASSOCIATED  
POLITICAL  
ORGANISATIONS  
OUTSIDE  
PALESTINE

It would perhaps be useful if I now revised our knowledge of these terrorist organisations outside Palestine, especially in so far as they may affect this country. First, however, I should perhaps remind you of the main Zionist political groupings, so that you may see how the terrorist organisations - the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI and the STERN Group, and especially the former - fit into the general scheme of things.

The Zionist movement, as most of you are no doubt aware, may be divided into two main groups. There are firstly, those Zionists who are in general sympathy with the leadership of the Jewish Agency, which, under the terms of the Mandate, represents the Jewish

community vis-a-vis the Palestine Government. The HAGANA - HAGANA is Hebrew word meaning defence - may be regarded as the Army of the Jewish Agency. The ostensible reason for its existence is to defend the Jewish settlements and the Palestine Jewish community in general against the threat of Arab attack. Acts of individual assassination and terrorism are not normally part of the policy of HAGANA, and though HAGANA has certainly been guilty of such acts in Palestine in the past, we have as yet no evidence of it having attempted them in Europe. I propose therefore to concentrate more on the second main Zionist grouping, that of the Revisionists - or United Zionist Revisionist Organisation, as it is now called - whose general policy is directly sympathetic towards the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI and STERN Group.

The Revisionist organisation broke off from the main Zionist body in 1923 under the leadership of the Russian Jew, Vladimir JABOTINSKI, accepting as the ultimate Zionist aim nothing less than the establishment of a Zionist state in the whole of Palestine and Transjordan. It was JABOTINSKI also who was instrumental in the creation of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI (or National Military Organisation) and of the BETAR or Revisionist Youth Organisation, from which a considerable number of IRGUN recruits are known to be drawn. Since that time the Revisionists have admitted or denied responsibility for the acts of terrorist organisation, in accordance with political convenience. In recent years they have generally found it salutary to deny it since admission might have hampered them as a political organisation. This has not however prevented them from expressing admiration and approval of the terrorists in their publications, especially in the United States.

Particularly vociferous in this connection has been the so-called BERGSON Group in America. This group has included at various times a number of organisations, of which the most prominent have been the HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION and the AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE, under the general leadership of Peter BERGSON, a Lithuanian Jew, who was originally a member of the Revisionist organisation proper, and who first went to America from this country

in 1941. You may recall that the AMERICAN LEAGUE was represented in London in 1945 by a BRITISH LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE, of which the central figure was that colourful character, Professor Johan SMERTENKO. SMERTENKO, you will remember, was refused admission to this country at the beginning of 1947, since when we have heard little of him. The BERGSON Group has however continued to be represented in Europe by its organisation in Paris, which was brought into being largely by the efforts of BERGSON's second-in-command, Samuel MERLIN. According to information which we have just received, it seems likely that BERGSON himself may retire from leadership, and that his place will be taken by MERLIN. MERLIN is reported as seeing no reason for a distinction between his group and the United Zionist Revisionists organisation as a whole, and it is possible that the former BERGSON Group will therefore before long be formally united with the Revisionists. This may also apply to the Hebrew Legion, an organisation which has recently grown up in London under a certain Major Samuel WEISER, representing BERGSON in this country.

By January of last year, it was clear to us that the headquarters of the Revisionist organisation in Europe was in Paris, where they had by then established a World Secretariat. It was noticeable that two of the leading members of this Secretariat had already been reported as active supporters of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI, and possibly actual members of that organisation. Also from that time onwards, we received from several sources reports of increased activity on the part of the Revisionist Youth Organisation known as BETAR in Europe, and on the part of both the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI and the STERN Group among the BETAR. Parallel with this development of activities by the Revisionist organisation itself, we were also watching the French Branch of the BERGSON Group, who showed signs of being more open in their activities, and who, as in the United States, were publicly advertising their intention of placing their resources at the disposal of the terrorist organisations. Reports from the French Police stated at that time that the BERGSON Group were fostering the development of terrorist organisations in France itself. Although our

information on this subject was not entirely clear, it seemed on the whole probable that, at least in Paris, the BERGSON Group and the Revisionists had forgotten their political differences and were collaborating in assisting Continental terrorist activities.

We believe that France is still the principal centre in Europe from which Revisionist extremist activities, including terrorism, are directed. Subsidiary organisations have been developed in a number of other European countries, including Italy, Germany, Austria, France and last but not least the United Kingdom.

EXAMPLES OF

TERORIST

ACTIVITIES IN

VARIOUS EUROPEAN

COUNTRIES.

Perhaps the best way for me to give you an idea of the way in which these Jewish terrorists have worked will be to choose particular examples from each of the countries I have named. I will leave this country to the last.

ITALY. Italy has for a long time been known to us as an important centre of Zionist activity, a reason for this being that the heel of Italy has been the most frequently used point of embarkation for Jewish illegal immigrants on their way by sea to Palestine. Refugee camps throughout Italy have been kept continuously filled with Jews who have been assisted from Central Europe across the Austrian frontier by the illegal immigration organisers. While these organisers have, we believe, been mainly HAGANA representatives, the Revisionists also have played their part in this traffic, and proof of the presence of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI was sufficiently provided in November 1946, when they struck their first blow in Europe by exploding a bomb in the British Embassy in Rome. There were strong indications at that time that the United Zionist Revisionist Organisation and the BETAR were both collaborating with the IRGUN in terrorist plans. Since then there has been less evidence of the active planning of terrorist outrages in Italy itself, but the Revisionists are known to be strongly represented there, one of their most prominent figures being a certain Leon CARPI, a lawyer of Genoa, who has been known since before the war to be involved in illegal immigration.

/In Germany,

GERMANY.

In Germany, there has for some time been ample evidence of the existence of Revisionist and Irgun cells in Displaced Persons camps in both the British and American Zones. Perhaps the most interesting case in Germany however was that which involved the placing of explosive charges on the main railway line between Berlin and Hanover in May and June last year. The discovery that this attempted outrage was the responsibility of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI was mainly the result of good work in the part of the German Police, operating under the Control Commission, and it may be of interest if I recount some of their investigations in detail.

The charges consisted of gelignite, as used for quarrying, placed between the lines and attached electrically to a detonator on the line itself. In the case of the charge placed on the line at the end of June, the total quantity of explosive material was about 30 kilograms. When the Police first examined it, they discovered that part of the wrapping of the explosive consisted of a sheet of newspaper printed in Hebrew. This proved to be a piece of the paper "Unsere Stimme", known to be published in Belsen camp. The wire connecting the explosive material with the detonator was covered with a yellow insulating material, of which more was to be heard later.

From certain other pieces of paper wrapping, it was possible to trace the explosives back to a quarry at Bochum in the Ruhr, where examination of the foreman's explosive book showed that the particular package of explosives had been issued to a certain Rudolf MERTEN. Questioning of MERTEN elicited the fact that he had on three occasions supplied gelignite to a second person named Theodor HEINEMANN, who had himself acquired it at the instigation of a former criminal. Further interrogation established that this criminal was in turn in close touch with a Jew named Hubert ABRAHAM of Munich.

/Meanwhile, the German

Meanwhile, the German Police had been making separate enquiries in Hanover itself, based on little more than witnesses' descriptions of certain persons of Jewish appearance who had been seen near the place where the explosives were found. As a result of these enquiries, two Jews named Jacob REDLICH and Jacob KRYZEK were arrested on suspicion. Attached to REDLICH's bicycle was found a piece of yellow wire identical in every respect with that which had earlier been found connected to the explosives on the railway line.

In the interval before these arrests took place the Police found that REDLICH and KRYZEK had been in communication with a Jew named ORLINSKI in Munich. ORLINSKI was watched and arrested, together with Hubert ABRAHAM.

Subsequent enquiries showed that the arrests were fully justified, and although the terrorists were reluctant to give information when questioned, ORLINSKI later supplied information confirming that the headquarters of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI in Europe is in Paris, with subordinate headquarters in Munich, the whole being supported by the United Zionist Revisionist Organisation.

AUSTRIA

Activity of the terrorists in Austria has been even greater than in the case of Germany, though here we are not in possession of such full information. For example, on August 12th a British leave train carrying 175 members of the Forces and other officials was derailed three miles from Malnitz, which is at the end of a long tunnel on the border of the American Zone of Austria, on the main line connecting Munich and Salzburg with the south. The line had been used for the last two years mainly for the transport of British troops. The derailment was caused by the placing of two bombs on the line, of which only one exploded. If the second bomb had exploded, the train would have left the rails and gone over the embankment. A Jewish refugee was arrested shortly afterwards, after he had used a pistol to resist arrest. Handbills, which were distributed later in Jewish D.P. camps in the

/Salzburg

Salzburg area, claimed on behalf of the "High Command of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI" that the attack on the train had been the work of the IRGUN.

On August 3rd two explosions occurred in the cellar of the Hotel Sacher in Vienna, used as quarters for British officers. Subsequent examination of the remains of the bombs showed them to be primarily of an incendiary type, connected to clockwork fuses. This outrage was later claimed to be the work of the IRGUN.

Threatening letters have also been as common in Germany and Austria as elsewhere, and the attacks at Malmitz and in the Sacher Hotel were followed by a series of anonymous bombing threats, one of which - surprisingly enough - involved the American Legation in Vienna.

FRANCE

I have already mentioned that Paris is believed to be the headquarters for Revisionist and IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI activities in Europe, as was confirmed by ORLINSKI, the Jew interrogated after the attack on the Hanover railway line. We have had numerous reports on terrorist activities and of the concealment of arms and explosives in France, but despite liaison between Scotland Yard and the French Police, it has not always been easy to obtain much information from that country. It has, also, as you will see, been somewhat noticeable that Jewish terrorists apprehended in France tend to receive considerate sentences.

As an example of the scale on which the terrorists have been endeavouring to collect weapons, I might mention the discovery by the French Police in July 1947 in an empty house at Nanterre, near Paris, of five heavy machine-guns, one light machine-gun, seven rifles, six hundred kilograms of cartridges for various arms of various calibres and 150 kilograms of explosives. 17 persons were subsequently arrested, but of these only two were convicted, and they received only four months and two months imprisonment respectively, with fines of 2,000 and 1,200 francs. One of the arrested men was a certain Jerzy MOSKOWITZ, possibly connected with Amnon MOSCOWITZ whose name appeared in the first Terrorist Index as a member of one of the Terrorist organisations.

More spectacular was the Rabbi KORFF affair of September 1947, of which you will probably have heard accounts in the Press. This involved a project for an air-raid on London, in the course of which leaflets were to be dropped in the name of the STERN Gang, together with high explosive bombs. The prime mover was Rabbi BARUCH KORFF, an American citizen born in Russia, who had already come to our notice as co-chairman of an organisation in the United States known as the Political Action Committee for Palestine. In the previous July KORFF had reached the headlines in the U.S.A. by introducing at a Press Conference a man reputed to be a leading member of the STERN Gang, travelling incognito in the name of HILLEL. The pressmen who attended the conference were not permitted to see HILLEL, who was hidden behind a half-open door.

In the following month, KORFF was announcing his intention of parachuting illegal immigrants into Palestine and claimed that millions of dollars had been subscribed by private American sources, American and Canadian planes having been purchased from surplus war stocks. It was with this project in mind that he went to Paris. Here he substituted for the parachute project an air-raid on London,

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In all ten persons were arrested, of whom two at least were strongly suspected members of the STERN Gang. One of these was a certain Jacques MARTINSKI, who had already come to attention in this country, when he landed at London Airport on 6th March 1947 - the

before an explosion took place in the Colonial Club in Trafalgar Square. He was refused leave to land because of his inability to substantiate the reasons which he gave for his visit to this country. It is significant that when the French Police searched his room in Paris after the KORFF affair, they found wrappings for packets of explosives. These explosives, from the description on the wrappings, were exactly similar to those used in the bomb planted at Dover House in London on 15th April 1947.

All the persons detained in Paris after the KORFF adventure were later released on indefinite bail. One of them was reported to have escaped police surveillance and to have disappeared.

Although KORFF and his friends seem to have really meant business, the whole episode in the outcome proved something of a farce. Of more serious interest from our own point of view is the presence in Paris of a certain Monia BELLA, a Jew of Russian origin, whom our sources report to be in fact the principal IRGUN representative in the French capital. He is certainly the principal contact there of his brother Leo BELLA, the central figure of the group of suspected terrorists in London who have been occupying our attention and that of Special Branch for some time past.

TERRORIST  
ACTIVITIES IN  
THE U.K.

We now come to information less historical in character, and more likely to be of direct interest to yourselves - that is to say, to the activities of those Jews in London - and especially Leo BELLA - whom we believe to have been planning terrorist outrages in this country.

Our information about these people has been obtained very gradually over the course of the past three and a half years, beginning with investigations which we made towards the end of the war into the activities of the Revisionist organisation in London, of whom the principal figure was a certain Abraham ABRAHAMS, editor of the Revisionist paper "Jewish Struggle". This paper consistently put forward the extreme Revisionist case for the establishment of a Jewish state in the whole of Palestine and Transjordan. Although it stopped short of open support of terrorist methods, it went as far as it possibly could

in acting as apologist for the terrorists, and in giving prominence to the terrorists' claims to be members of a patriotic "resistance movement" struggling to free Palestine from the foreign invader.

Even less restrained in its propaganda was the Revisionist youth group, or BETAR, for which at one time we believed ABRAHAMS also to be responsible. In December 1945 the BETAR, whose headquarters were in a Jewish Club in Stoke Newington in North London, began publication of a paper entitled the "Jewish Struggle", which openly approved terrorist activities, recommending the use of violence and condemning the British as Nazis. This paper reproduced in facsimile and in translation actual pamphlets known to have been issued by the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Palestine. In December 1946, by which time investigations by Special Branch and ourselves had resulted in the identification of the young Jews mainly responsible for the publication of this paper, these people were officially warned that if further issues were published, prosecution would follow. This effectively put an end to the "Jewish Struggle". Some of you may have seen copies of this scurrilous paper. Those of you who have not may be interested to glance at this copy.

It was at this stage that Leo BELLA who is a stateless person of Russian origin, first really began to interest us. He had been a member of the Revisionist head office since his arrival in this country in 1936, but a successful under-cover technique had so far concealed the extent of his association with ABRAHAMS and the other more open political leaders of the organisation in London. When, however, we began to examine the methods whereby the editors of the "Jewish Struggle" obtained propaganda material direct from Palestine, it became clear that the main channel of communication for this purpose was through Leo BELLA.

Since then it has been established from secret sources that Leo BELLA is the controlling figure behind a group of conspirators whose aim - hitherto unsuccessful - has undoubtedly been to organise acts of terrorism in this country. His principal associates are a certain Chonel PONTEBUNSKI, a 26-year-old Police

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who joined the Revisionist organisation in London in 1939 and who served during the war in the R.A.S.C.; Paul HOMESKY, a Palestinian aged 22, formerly in the R.A.F. and now a student in London; a certain Erich PRINZ, a German of Polish origin who entered this country illegally in 1946; a 23-year-old South African named Boris SENIOR, who, like HOMESKY, served in the R.A.F. during the war as a pilot - he is at present believed to be in South Africa; Mojzesz KAPLAN, formerly member of the Polish Medical Corps; Theodor PRESCHEL, a Pole aged 25, who is studying at a Rabbinical College in London; Isaac PRESSMAN, a naturalised British subject of Russian origin, 45 years of age and a director of a firm of chemical manufacturers in Stoke Newington; and a certain SCHAPIRO, whose identity is uncertain, but who may be a Polish member of the London BETAR who formerly served in the Pioneer Corps. It should also not omit to mention Robert BRISCOE, a member of the Irish Dail, who has long been an active Revisionist in Dublin and in contact with BELLA and other Revisionist leaders in London.

At least two of these names will probably already be known to you, those of Erich PRINZ and Isaac PRESSMAN. The former, you may recall, was arrested on August 26th last year, when he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment on charges under the Aliens' Order and recommended to be deported. It was in PRESSMAN's garage in London that the C.I.D. discovered 27 hand-grenades and a number of detonators on July 19th. Unfortunately, there was insufficient evidence against PRESSMAN to justify a prosecution, but it may be noted that a considerable quantity of terrorist literature was found in his flat at the time.

You may be interested to know something of the background of these two cases of PRESSMAN and PRINZ, and of the information which we were able then and subsequently to give to Special Branch about them. I should point out that the greater part of this information was obtained from secret sources, and had therefore to be

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used with the greatest care. It was of course impossible to use any of it as evidence for prosecution purposes.

You will see how slender is the information upon which we often have to go, when I tell you that until PRINZ' actual arrest, we did not even know him by this name. It is the regular habit of BELLA and his friends to refer to each other by cover names, and we knew practically nothing about PRINZ except under one of these cover names.

Throughout last summer our sources reported that BELLA and his associates were anxious to collect explosive material for some unspecified purpose. Among the persons whom BELLA hoped to use for this was the man Majzesz KAPLAN whom I have already mentioned, almost certainly identical with a member of the Polish Forces who was known to have played a leading part in organising a BETAR or youth group in Glasgow. The man whom we later knew as PRINZ was also concerned with BELLA in the plans to make use of KAPLAN's services. At the end of April another former member of the Polish Forces in Scotland came into the picture. This was a certain SZAFRAN in Falkirk, thought to be identical with Feiwel or Nahum SZAFRAN, formerly in the Polish Air Force. We were never very clear about BELLA's plans in connexion with this man, but we know that it was agreed between him and PRINZ that SZAFRAN should be contacted in Scotland. Although we think that a definite attempt was made to carry out this arrangement, and although PRINZ actually travelled to Falkirk in May to meet SZAFRAN, the whole thing came to nothing. SZAFRAN has not himself since come to our notice, and we believe that he has avoided any further contact with BELLA.

This information about KAPLAN received interesting confirmation at the time from a Special Branch report of May 29th, according to which KAPLAN had in fact been attempting to obtain arms and explosives. We learned simultaneously from our own sources that PRINZ had again been in contact with BELLA and had been urging the necessity to make further progress in the plan in which KAPLAN was involved. It became clear from the Special Branch information that the aim of this plan was undoubtedly to collect weapons and explosive

material, an aim in which BELLA and his friends are believed to have been unsuccessful, except to the limited extent which was later shown in the PRESSMAN case, of which I shall have more to tell you.

PRINZ again came to our attention in July, when he and the man HOMESKY were known to have left London in a hired car for the purpose of collecting certain unspecified material in the Marlborough district. We were able to pass information to Special Branch about this trip, as the result of which the car was intercepted on the return journey. Nothing of interest was found in the car, but HOMESKY's companion - who, you will recall, was not yet known to us as PRINZ - produced an identity card in the name of Julius BALLON. This card proved not to be his own, Julius BALLON being another Jew, who, by an interesting coincidence, was employed as works foreman to the man Isaac PRESSMAN, of whom more later. BALLON claimed that he had lost his identity card, but it seems more than possible that he had knowingly allowed HOMESKY's companion, later identified as PRINZ, to use it.

From this time onwards, Special Branch, acting mainly on our information, undertook intensified measures to locate HOMESKY's companion, who since the interception of the fare on July 27th, had disappeared and remained unidentified. At last, on August 26th, we obtained information about an intended meeting between this man and BELLA and HOMESKY. As a result Special Branch were able to arrest him, and in the proceedings which followed, he was identified as Erich PRINZ. In the statement which he made to police officers he gave a most unsatisfactory account of his arrival in this country, and claimed that he had been brought here by Polish soldiers in 1946 wearing Polish uniform. He also stated that he had been given civilian clothes in Portsmouth Dockyard and picked up outside the dockyard by a man unknown to him, who was waiting with a car. In the outcome, he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment on charges under the Aliens Order with a recommendation for deportation. He has since been released, and I do not as yet know what success the Home Office have had in arranging for him to be deported.

The case of Isaac PRESSMAN is the only one in which we have had definite knowledge of the acquisition of explosive materials by BELLA and his friends, though this knowledge was obtained only from secret sources and none of it could be used in evidence. PRESSMAN, who, as I have mentioned, is a British subject by naturalisation, formerly Russian, and director of a firm of chemical manufacturers in Stoke Newington in North London, was detained by the Metropolitan Police in July last year, following upon information given to the police by a chauffeur, which led to the finding of 27 hand-grenades and a number of detonators in a garage owned by PRESSMAN in North London. A quantity of terrorist literature was found by the C.I.D. in his flat at the time. Otherwise, however, there was nothing from sources which could be used which in any way indicated that PRESSMAN was a member of the BELLA Group. From our own sources, however, his association with BELLA was clear enough.

We never succeeded in establishing where the grenades found in PRESSMAN's garage were originally obtained, although there was some reason to suspect that they had been pilfered from a R.A.F. airfield in the vicinity of Marlborough in Wiltshire. From the time however of the breakdown in BELLA's arrangements to make use of the Pole SZAFRAN in Falkirk, we had reason to suspect that PRESSMAN and BELLA were both concerned in a scheme to obtain explosive material from somewhere in the West of England, and our reports suggested that PRESSMAN paid a visit to Somerset at the end of June in order to examine the possibilities of obtaining such material from quarries in that area. (You may recall that there were a number of thefts of gelignite from quarries in Devonshire at this time, and our first inclination was to suspect that the BELLA Group had something to do with this. The C.I.D. were however later able to establish that these particular thefts were a straightforward criminal affair and had nothing to do with politics.)

The PRESSMAN story was carried a stage further at the beginning of July, when BELLA and his group made elaborate and secret arrangements to meet HOMESKY at Paddington Station on July 6th, when

he was to bring a package from the west country, arrangements being made for it to be housed in PRESSMAN's garage. One report showed that by July 6th BELLA and PRESSMAN had completed arrangements for the use of the garage for this purpose. At that time, although it became abundantly clear after the event, we had no reason to suspect the real purpose for which the garage was being made available. When however the chauffeur informed the Police on July 19th about the presence there of the hand-grenades, it was safe to infer that these grenades were in the package which HOMESKY had brought to Paddington from the west country on July 6th and that PRESSMAN, moreover, had had full knowledge of the undertaking and had lent his garage for the purpose.

PAUSE IN  
ACTIVITIES OF  
THE BELLA GROUP  
SINCE THE PRINZ  
AND PRESSMAN  
AFFAIRS.

Since that time we have heard little of PRESSMAN, and until quite lately the BELLA group as a whole has been relatively quiescent, no doubt deterred from activity by the arrest of PRINZ and the close investigation into the activities of PRESSMAN. Recently, however, there have been signs of a revival of activity on the part of BELLA, in conjunction with certain Jews who have previously aroused our suspicions and who have been denounced to the Police, by an anonymous informant, as agents of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI. Although there are good reasons for discounting information which is obtained from an anonymous source, informant in this case appeared, from the contents of his report, to have fairly accurate knowledge about certain aspects of Jewish underground activity in the U.K. There is little evidence that BELLA continues to be assisted by his former subordinates whom we believe to have been implicated in the PRESSMAN affair, although he is reported to maintain contact with them. It may be that they have taken fright and are keeping clear of danger or, on the other hand, the nature of the work in which BELLA is now engaged may require confederates of a different type.

The purpose of BELLA's present activities is not as yet clear, and apart from the fact that he and his confederates appear

/anxious to

anxious to raise funds and may shortly be supporting a campaign for this purpose, we know little more than that they are once again behaving in a conspiratorial manner and generally employing all the tricks which one would expect of an underground organisation.

ASSOCIATION OF  
THE BELLA GROUP  
WITH THE HEBREW  
LEGION.

In their campaign to raise money, for which purpose it is likely that they will use propaganda material received from abroad, we have reason to believe that the group which BELLA now controls is associated with a relatively new organisation known as the Hebrew Legion. The role played by the Hebrew Legion in the partnership would appear to be mainly one of propaganda for the dual purpose of raising funds and of attracting recruits for the defence of the Jewish State.

Its leading figures are a certain Major Samuel WEISER, of 21 Hyde Park Street, London, W.2. and Lieutenant Douglas De LANGE, both of whom held commissions in the forces during the war, WEISER in the Army and De LANGE in the R.N.V.R. According to our reports, WEISER and De LANGE were expelled from the Revisionist organisation proper - as represented by Abraham ABRAHAMS of the "Jewish Standard" - because they were bribed by the American BERGSON Group to join that organisation and represent it in London, thus filling the gap which had been left after Professor SMERTENKO's abortive attempts to carry out the same task in 1946. WEISER had previously been chairman of a relatively unimportant organisation known as the Jewish Legion of Ex-Servicemen, and the adoption of the term Hebrew was indicative of his newly-developed loyalty to BERGSON who, has always, in a manner which is difficult to understand shosen to differentiate between Hebrews and Jews. (You will recall that one of his most important organisations in America was that known as the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and, more recently, the American League for a Free Palestine). Some of you will have seen specimens of the posters which WEISER and his organisation have recently attempted to display in various cities, including London, Leeds and Glasgow. Owing to the sensible attitude of the advertising agents in all three cities, very few of these posters were in fact displayed. I have a copy of

the contents of one of these posters with me, which any of you who have not seen the originals may care to look at. You will see that it contains the usual kind of Revisionist propaganda, accusing the British administration in Palestine of responsibility for the loss of both Jewish and Arab lives, and inviting all Jews to join with the Hebrew Legion for the defence of the Jewish State. There was no very great harm in these posters in themselves, but the association of WEISER and De LANGE with BELLA, of which we have only recently learned, gives us reason to regard the activities of the Legion as of rather more interest. We hope that it will not be long before we know more about the reasons for his linking it with BELLA, and about his connection with the BERGSON group in the United States.

There is one further comparatively recent development which I should mention, although it is not known to have anything to do with the United Zionist Revisionist Organisation in this country, or with BELLA or the Hebrew Legion. I refer to the despatch last December to Town Clerks throughout England, - but not, I think, Scotland - of threatening letters signed by the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI. These letters, all of which had been posted in Tel Aviv, demanded an accelerated evacuation of British troops from Palestine and an end of what was termed British interference in Palestine Jewish affairs and in Jewish relations with their Arab neighbours. It was stated that if British troops, while still in Palestine, concerned themselves only with the organisation of their own evacuation, they would not be attacked, and continued:

"but any attempt by whatever means to perpetuate British rule in whatever form and in whatever part of our country will result in a new offensive by the IRGUN".

We have sent a number of the original envelopes in which these envelopes were received to our representative in Jerusalem, who has asked the Palestine C.I.D. to endeavour to trace their origin. This enquiry has not yet produced any definite result, and you will understand that in present circumstances it is not easy for the

Palestine Police to carry out any sort of routine investigations, especially in cities such as Tel Aviv, where police authority has by now been almost entirely delegated to the Jews themselves. One particularly interesting suggestion has however come from the Chief Constable in Great Yarmouth, who has pointed out that the Town Clerk of that town attended a Town Clerks Association Conference in Bournemouth in May 1947, at which the Town Clerk of Tel Aviv, a certain Captain Yehouda NEDIVI, was also present. NEDIVI lectured to the assembled Town Clerks on local government in Palestine and especially in Tel Aviv itself. In the following September the Town Clerk of Great Yarmouth received from NEDIVI a letter and a book containing photographs of various parts of Tel Aviv. NEDIVI stated in the letter that the name and address of the Town Clerk of Great Yarmouth had been obtained from a list of those who had attended the Conference at Bournemouth in the previous September. It therefore seems very possible that NEDIVI - and through him the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI - obtained the addresses of the recipients of the threatening letters received in December from the same attendance list. If so, it is on the cards that NEDIVI was actually an agent of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI at the time of his hospitable reception in Bournemouth, although neither we nor the Palestine Police at that time had any significant record of him.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND INTELLIGENCE.

That brings me more or less up to date where Terrorist activities are concerned, and I have exacted more than enough of your time without touching on those other aspects of Zionist subversive activities which I mentioned at the beginning - namely Jewish illegal immigration and Intelligence. I need not take up your time much with these. Illegal immigration is known to have taken place from this country, and it is certain that organisations for the training of Jewish refugees in agriculture and similar activities may serve as recruiting grounds for illegal immigration to Palestine. Routine examination of the correspondence of illegal immigrants detained at Cyprus in August last year showed that such training organisations existed in Leeds, Bedford,

/London and at a farm

London and at a farm at Thaxted in Essex. There was also some evidence that Jews from Glasgow had attended the centre at Thaxted. A report received from the Palestine C.I.D. in January last year indicated that a youth organisation known as Habonim existed in a number of English speaking countries including England, the United States and South Africa, and that it was organising illegal immigration on a small scale. Habonim appeared at that time to have at least two centres in England, one in Buckinghamshire at Newport Pagnall and the other at Phoenix Farm which is at Bookham in Surrey. The method of operation seemed to be that immigrants were instructed to first obtain relief work on the Continent and then, after a period varying from a few weeks to a few months, to join the party of immigrants secretly bound for Palestine. You will see that there does not appear to have been any question of illegal immigrants shipping direct from this country to the Middle East, and we have no evidence as yet of illegal immigration from here by any route on a significant scale. I should like to add a final word on Jewish Intelligence. This is a subject more of interest to M.I.5. than to yourselves, and one to which we have been unable up to now to devote much time. We believe, however, that it may well become of increasing importance. The Jewish Agency has for some time been in fact, though not in law, the shadow Government of the Palestine Jewish community. As such, it has reproduced all the departments of a normal administration including, for example, finance, immigration (legal and otherwise) and war. Though it has not openly admitted the existence of an Intelligence department, it can be taken as a certainty that such a department has in fact existed, and Jewish Agency Intelligence officers have been intermittently in contact with our own security representatives in the Middle East and elsewhere since at least 1944. At one time, when it suited their political book, they actually gave to British Intelligence in the Middle East and to the Palestine Police a number of names of Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern Group terrorists - but this service did not last for long. More recently, we have been interested in the Press and Publicity branches of the various Jewish Agency offices in Jerusalem,

London, Paris and Washington, since we have had reason to believe that these branches have served as cover for the collection of information. So far as we know, this Intelligence work has in the main been done without undue concealment and there has been little attempt to adopt secret service methods. It has been none the less effective, and there is no doubt that the Jewish Agency offices everywhere are extremely well informed about all political and military developments affecting Zionist ambitions. In the Middle East itself, they have naturally specialised in the obtaining of information about Arab intentions.

Our interest in these Intelligence activities arises from the fact that we believe them to be a potential danger to the British security, especially when the Jews are in sight of attaining independent statehood. Where Jewish Agency offices now exist, there will no doubt in future be Jewish Embassies, Legations or Consulates, and it is to be expected that these will serve for cover for Intelligence, just as the Agency offices have served in the past. This need not alarm us unduly in present circumstances, while the more sensible Zionists recognise their continued dependence for military and political support upon the Anglo-American bloc; but should the orientation of the Jewish state in international politics take a different swing in the future, we should then have to watch our step where Jewish Intelligence is concerned. Already, it is impossible to ignore the fact that certain of the left-wing political groups in Palestine under the leadership of Moshe SNEH, the former commander in chief of Hagana, are watching the advantages to be gained by an approach to Soviet Russia, while in the background both the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group have echoed this policy in their secretly printed newspapers. I do not want to make too much of this, and there has been a tendency lately to overdo the theory that the Zionists are sold to the Russians. It is, however, a possibility which has to be kept in mind, and which gives added reason for supposing that the Zionists' aggressive activities as a whole will remain a commitment of the Security and Intelligence authorities for a considerable time yet to come.

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D.G.'s Lecture at Taunton on 8th Jan, 1948.

JEWISH ACTIVITIES.

Jewish Terrorism.

As you know, one of our tasks during the recent troubled years in Palestine, has been to supply to the police, whether in Palestine itself or in this country, with any information obtainable from our sources which may assist in the task of combatting Zionist terrorism. You also know that the position in Palestine is about to be radically changed, with the termination of the British Mandate on May 15th, and you might be led to expect that our interest in Jewish underground activities will ease, or at least diminish, with the withdrawal of British civil and military authority from Palestine.

The facts are otherwise. Let me deal first with the problem of terrorism. It might be thought that, with the British withdrawal, the main object of political terrorism will have been removed. It would be reasonable to expect that the British would shortly cease to be the targets of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group, and it would be reasonable to anticipate some drawing together between the Irgun and the Stern on the one hand and the Hagana - the para-military army of the Jewish Agency - on the other, in order to present a united Jewish front against the Arabs. Actually, our evidence shows that mutual suspicion between the Hagana and the terrorist organisations proper continues, that Hagana intelligence is active against the terrorists, and that, although efforts have been made towards a reconciliation, the Irgun Zvai Leumi have insisted that a free hand be reserved for them in what they are pleased to call "foreign Policy".

The recent despatch of propaganda pamphlets by the Irgun Zvai Leumi to Town Clerks throughout the U.K. may well be an example of their "foreign policy". You have probably already been fully informed about the contents of these pamphlets, but I may perhaps remind you that they contained threats of a "new offensive" against the British troops in Palestine, should they engage in any activities not directly connected with the evacuation. These pamphlets were despatched by airmail from Palestine. The exact place of origin was not at first discernible, but a specimen has now been seen with the postmark of Tel-Aviv. In this connection it may possibly be significant that a conference of the Town Clerks Association which took place on May 12th, 1947, was attended by a certain Captain Yehudah NEDIVI, the Town Clerk of Tel-Aviv. Information received in August 1947 from Palestine showed that NEDIVI had been suspected of being concerned in the illegal importation of arms in 1941, and was known to be in close touch with the Hagana between 1942 and 1945, when he was in the British army. In September, he sent the Town Clerk of Great Yarmouth a book containing photographs of Tel-Aviv accompanied by a letter mentioning that the name and address of the Town Clerk had been obtained from a list of those attending the conference at Bournemouth in May. It seems more than likely therefore that it was through NEDIVI that the Irgun obtained the names and addresses of the recipients of the recent pamphlet.

In circumstances such as these, it would, in my opinion, be dangerous to assume that the approaching termination of the British Mandate in Palestine justifies any relaxation in the security precautions which you and we have found it necessary to take against the menace of Jewish political terrorism.

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Jewish Intelligence Activities.

There is, however, another aspect of the Jewish problem, which is likely to be of more continuing interest to the Security Service than the short term danger of terrorism. This is the problem of countering Jewish Intelligence activities.

The Jewish Agency has, of course, long been an embryonic Jewish Government, containing within itself all those administrative departments which will be necessary for Jewish rule in that part of Palestine comprised within their State. Thus there has been an equivalent of a Jewish Treasury, of an Immigration Department (no doubt the ultimate seat of control of illegal immigration), and of a War Office, probably directing the Hagana. I think it can be taken as certain that there has also been an equivalent of an Intelligence Department, designed to keep the Jewish Agency Executive and in future the Inner Cabinet of the Jewish State, fully appraised of such information as it requires for planning the achievement of Zionist ambitions. Frankly, we know very little about the Jewish Agency Intelligence organisation, but it is perhaps safe to assume that it is divided roughly into two branches, the one military and the other political. The principal instrument of the military branch is probably the intelligence organisation of the Hagana, roughly equivalent to General Staff Intelligence in the British Army. Through Hagana Intelligence, the Jewish Agency are able to keep themselves informed about the plans and military dispositions of surrounding Arab States and of the Mufti. Similarly, it has probably been mainly through the Hagana organisation that intelligence has been obtained from Europe upon which to base the planning of illegal immigration. In the political field, the Agency has long had its

representatives in every principal capital of the world, mixing on a high level with senior diplomatic and governmental authorities, and acting in effect as the unofficial ambassadors of the future Jewish State which they have now successfully brought into being. With the formal establishment of this Jewish State, it may reasonably be forecast that these representatives will themselves acquire formal diplomatic status, and will thus have their intelligence activities facilitated by diplomatic cover and privilege. The conclusion is inescapable that they will for a long time to come be a major commitment of the Security Service in its capacity as a defensive counter-intelligence organisation.

Nor must we leave out of account the Revisionist organisation, which, alongside the Jewish Agency or the Government of the new Jewish State, may be expected to carry out its own intelligence activities. In this connection it may interest you to know that a Jew, with Revisionist history and connections, who arrived in this country from the U.S.A. in October 1947, was found to be in possession of a long plain language code, and of copies of letters and telegrams from which it was apparent that he had used this code to report information to his contacts in London about negotiations with numerous highly placed military and Government officials in the U.S. and elsewhere. The full implications of this case are not yet entirely clear, but it seems likely that the individual in question has been operating as an intelligence agent in the U.S. and in Europe, either on behalf of the Irgun Zvai Leumi or of the Jewish Agency itself.

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

I will conclude with a short reference to the question of Jewish illegal immigration. As you will have gathered from press reports of the interception and

and diversion to Cyprus of the Pan York and the Pan Crescent, with the largest shipment of illegal immigrants yet known, this has not ceased to be a problem. Moreover, although, with the termination of the Mandate, the restriction of Jewish immigration by the quota system will cease, and with it the necessity for illegal immigration, our information shows that all the machinery for this immigrant traffic - and particularly the shipping - continues in being. The ships in question may of course possibly be transferred to the new Jewish State for legal purposes. They may be used for the legitimate shipment of Zionist Jews to Palestine from all over the world. But equally they may be used for the shipment of arms, and it is noteworthy that a statement was made by a Jewish Agency representative at a press conference in the U.S.A. on December 9th to the effect that "the Hagana will suspend illegal immigration into Palestine in favour of shipping arms into the new State by the same clandestine methods". You will note the emphasis on the intended use of the same methods, and I need hardly stress the interest with which we have read, in this connection, the recent reports in the press of the discovery of a cargo of T.N.T. on board a ship in Jersey City, which was about to be shipped to Tel-Aviv. No doubt it is to America that the Zionists will principally look for the supply of arms and funds upon which they must depend for survival against Arab attacks. They are also likely, however, to attempt to satisfy these needs in any country where opportunity officer, and the possibility of such arms deals taking place in this country must not be overlooked.

The ending, therefore, of British rule in Palestine is unlikely to bring with it any lessening of the security problems presented by militant Zionism. It is important to remember that the new Jewish State will be in an area

vital to British defensive strategy in the Mediterranean - a State of which, however small and newly fledged it may be, the potential danger to British Imperial security cannot be disregarded. I would mention, finally, that it is certainly unlikely to be disregarded by Soviet Russia.

Mr. Hollis

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~~I'm afraid I was able to make very little use of our office and had to talk on the relations of the office with the police. Later.~~

For about the past three years, the work of the Middle East section of the Security Service - the parent section in London of the organisation at G.H.Q. in Fayid known as Security Intelligence Middle East - has been dominated by the Jewish problem. As you will realise, intelligence on this subject has had a vital bearing on H.M.G.'s policy for Palestine, and upon the internal security, not only of Palestine itself, but also of the whole Middle East, where Arab friendliness towards this country has tended to increase or diminish in accordance with the extent to which, in Arab eyes, Great Britain appeared to conciliate the mounting ambitions of the Zionists. These ambitions, as you know, have aimed at the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, and - where the policy of the extreme Revisionist group is concerned - even at the establishment of a combined Jewish State of Palestine and Transjordan. They have been furthered, not only by world-wide propaganda, of which the intensity has been especially marked in the United States, but also by underground activities, such as Jewish illegal immigration and terrorism. These last two types of activity have been the subject of close study by my Middle East section over a considerable period, and I think I may say that through its efforts the Security Service has been able to pass much valuable information both to the Government departments concerned in the combating of illegal immigration and to ~~the Police forces~~ and to those police officers who have had the responsibility of protecting from threatened Jewish attack such property and persons as have been picked out by the Zionist thugs as suitable objectives.

As you know, His Majesty's Government has now finally decided to discharge itself of the heavy responsibility of the Palestine mandate. The future of the country will remain a matter of uncertainty until U.N.O. has finally decided whether or not to endorse the recommendations of the special committee of enquiry. Since, however, both the United States and Soviet

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Russia, through their representatives, have expressed approval of the partition plan recommended by the majority of the committee, it seems on the whole likely that some form of partition will in due course be implemented. This implementation will not be easy in the face of resolute Arab opposition, and no decision has yet been made as to the composition of the force, whether international in character or otherwise, which will be required to keep the ring in Palestine until ~~it can finally be released~~  
<sup>an instant,</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>our</sup> conditions of relative tranquillity. Nor can our evacuation from the country be achieved in a moment. It will be a complicated business after twenty-five years of rule, and many months are likely to pass before the last British soldier and the last British official have left the country. It does, however, seem on the whole probable that some measure of Jewish ~~ambitions~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~now in~~ <sup>near</sup> sight of achievement, and that in at least part of Palestine a Jewish State will be established in the relatively near future. The British, moreover, will now longer be bearing the sole brunt of Zionist opprobrium, and will therefore cease to be the terrorists' principal target, or the principal obstacle in the way of Jewish immigration. We are therefore within sight of a gradual diminution of the responsibilities of the Security Service where these two difficult and complex intelligence problems are concerned.

It would be dangerous, however, to sound too optimistic a note, and it would appear that, if Jewish illegal immigration is in fact to cease as one of our major problems, the Jewish Agency at least intend that its end shall be dramatic. At the moment, we have intelligence of four ships which may shortly be on their way to Palestine with illegal immigrants, and two of these are the largest with which the Navy have yet had to deal. These are the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York", sister ships of about <sup>4,500 tons</sup> <sub>A</sub> tons, both of which were last reported at Constanza, which they entered early this month after being shadowed by the Navy as far as the entrance to the Bosphorus. They are each believed capable of accommodating up to 8,000 Jews,

and the "Pan Crescent" was in fact last reported to be due to leave Constanza on October 7th, with some 6,000 illegal immigrants on board. One helpful item of news recently received by the Foreign Office is to the effect that about 20 Italian members of the crews of both ships, who had signed on in Italy without knowledge of the use to which these two ships were to be put, have been demanding their discharge in Rumania on learning that their destination was to be Palestine and their cargo Jewish immigrants. If this trouble continues, the sailing of the two ships may yet be delayed, but the threat of their departure still hangs over us, and, if they in fact sail, their size will make them a difficult proposition for the Navy's boarding parties. If they do succeed in arriving in Palestine, whether by beaching themselves or by otherwise evading H.M. ships, their arrival cannot fail to add to the already increasing tension between Arabs, Jews and British in Palestine, especially in the frontier regions, where the Arab armies have lately been reported to be massing. || <sup>New para</sup> This increase of tension in Palestine, and the suddenly crystallised Arab realisation of the threat to the integrity of their countries implied in the United Nations Special Committee's partition plan for Palestine, has given rise lately to an increase of interest in my Middle East section in Arab activities, and particularly in the secret efforts of the Arabs to obtain support and recruits from outside the Middle East area. || <sup>New para</sup> I do not think we should discount the dangers inherent in the Middle East at present - dangers which are not in principle very different from those which have led to such bloodshed between the rival Hindu and Moslem communities in India. Both the Iraqi Government and the Arab League, through its representative, Azzam Pasha, have made clear their intention to occupy at least the Arab parts of Palestine in the event of British withdrawal from that country. The Arab states possess armies which are by no means negligible as fighting forces and which in the cases of Egypt and Iraq include small but respectable air components, with

which the Jewish Hagana force would be in no position to compete. Even if the Arab states, through disagreement among themselves or for any other reason, do not declare official warfare upon the Jews, the latter seem likely in any event to be threatened with determined attack by uncoordinated Arab guerrillas, whose fighting <sup>qualities</sup> were well shown, not only in the time of T.E. Lawrence, but also during the 1936 Rebellion, and who will derive further solidarity and unity of purpose from the inspiration and presence in Syria of their leader, The Mufti, Haj Amin el HUSSEINI. The Mufti, moreover, has at his right hand the renowned former Syrian rebel, Fawzi el Qawuqji, who although perhaps by now past his prime as a ~~fighter~~, as a warrior, has not yet lost his renown among Arab fighting men.

The influence of the Mufti is by no means confined to the Middle East itself. He has two able exponents of his cause in the United States in the persons of his kinsman, Rajai Husseini, and of the former rebel and wartime renegade, ~~Wassef~~ Kamal. In London, he has an able lieutenant in Izzadeen Shawa, a Cambridge-educated Arab, 44 years old, who was employed as a young man in Government service in Palestine. With the outbreak of the Arab revolt in 1936/39, he showed signs of sympathy with the rebels and in 1936/37 was suspected of being a party to attacks on two Arab police inspectors. As a consequence, he was discharged from Government service in July 1937, and for the following years worked actively on the rebel side not only in Palestine but also in Syria, the Lebanon and Iraq. It was reported that he was at this time a member of the Arab Higher Committee and in close contact with the Mufti. 1939 found him in Baghdad, where he was in touch with the Germans. Again in 1941 he was a member of a Palestinian deputation which obtained an interview with the Armistice Commission of the German Von Hentig in Syria. Suspected of taking a part in Rashid Ali's rebellion in Iraq, he was arrested by the Iraqi authorities and interned for a short time. On his release he obtained employment in Saudi Arabia as director of an agricultural scheme under Ibn Saud, but became once again

involved in politics and was for a time dismissed from Saudi Government employ. His association with the Mufti was renewed in 1946, and he was suspected of being an active party to Haj Amin's escape from France on the S.S. "Devonshire". A Palestine Government exclusion order is still in force against him.

Izzadeen Shawa arrived in London as the direct representative of the Mufti in June this year, and established the Palestine Arab Political Mission at 26 Eaton Square, as a rival organisation to the Arab Office, which had already for some time represented the Arab League under the general direction of Musa el Alami. At the moment, the membership of the mission consists of no more than Shawa and one English and possibly one Arab secretary, though it may be reinforced before long by a certain George Mansour, another of the former followers of the Mufti now in Cairo. The object of the mission is to protect the point of view of the Palestine Arabs and to solicit support for the extremist views of the Mufti. Our observation has not so far shown that Shawa has attempted to carry out his task by any illegal methods. We are however continuing to keep a close watch on him and his associates, particularly in the light of recent reports that a number of British ex-officers and other Arab sympathisers in this country may volunteer to serve in the cause of the Mufti in the Middle East. It seems quite possible that Shawa's office may in due course become a recruiting centre for volunteers of this type, among whom it would be reasonable to expect to find a fair sprinkling of ~~Arab~~ Fascist sympathisers.

As I have explained, the intelligence objectives of the Security Service Middle East section will require redefinition in view of the changing situation in Palestine, and of the alteration in the nature of British responsibilities in that country. The outlook is the more uncertain by reason of the hold-up in our negotiations with the Egyptians concerning the revision of the 1936 Treaty with that country. The whole general framework of our strategic position in the Middle East

is, in short, in the process of a thorough "shake-up". Until the uncertainties in the present situation have been clarified, it is difficult to foresee the exact nature of our intelligence commitments in that area. As I have explained, our concern with Jewish illegal immigration is, on the whole, likely to decrease, and our interest in Arab activities - and particularly secret activities - to increase.

Nor must we forget that, behind the immediate menace of the Arab and Jewish problems, there is the still greater ~~menace~~ <sup>threat</sup> of Communist penetration. With the increase in ~~the~~ literacy in the Middle East countries in the course of the last generation, the peoples of these countries have become more open to influence by subversive propaganda and particularly by propaganda of the Communist type with its appeal to the poorer classes. An example of the extent to which Communism can obtain the support of Arab sympathisers was shown by the arrest and trial in May and June this year of some ~~60,000~~ <sup>65</sup> ~~60~~ (?) members of the Iraqi Communist <sup>Party</sup> and the so-called ~~leader of~~ <sup>league of</sup> the Iraq Communists in Baghdad, which led to the passing of heavy sentences on 8 (?) ringleaders of these two organisations. Although direct communication between Moscow and these two parties was never proved in the course of the Iraqi Government's investigations, certain evidence did suggest fairly strongly the likelihood of such direct inspiration, and it became clear in the course of the trials that leaders of the two groups had certainly derived encouragement and support from outside Iraq - even in some cases from the United Kingdom. It was established, in the course of the proceedings, that these Communist groups had been instrumental in fomenting strikes, especially among railway workers, in Iraq, and that they had used other less openly Communist Left Wing political groups as instruments for <sup>achieving</sup> ~~evading~~ this and other subversive aims. With the increase in recent years of the power of the written word in the Middle East, there has grown an increased possibility of exploiting the hitherto voiceless working classes which, if worked upon by ~~a~~ skilful propaganda, may prove a

powerful weapon of disruption in an area vital to our strategic interests. It is my intention that Security Intelligence Middle East shall pay the closest attention to the Communist problem from now onwards, while the Middle East section of my office in London will be supplementing these Middle East investigations by acquiring all possible intelligence regarding the direction of the Middle East Communist groups from outside that area, whether such direction be from Moscow or from any other country.

December 1947.

**TOP SECRET.**

**CREAM**

OX — dated 31.3.47  
R.5

My dear ~~Jack~~,

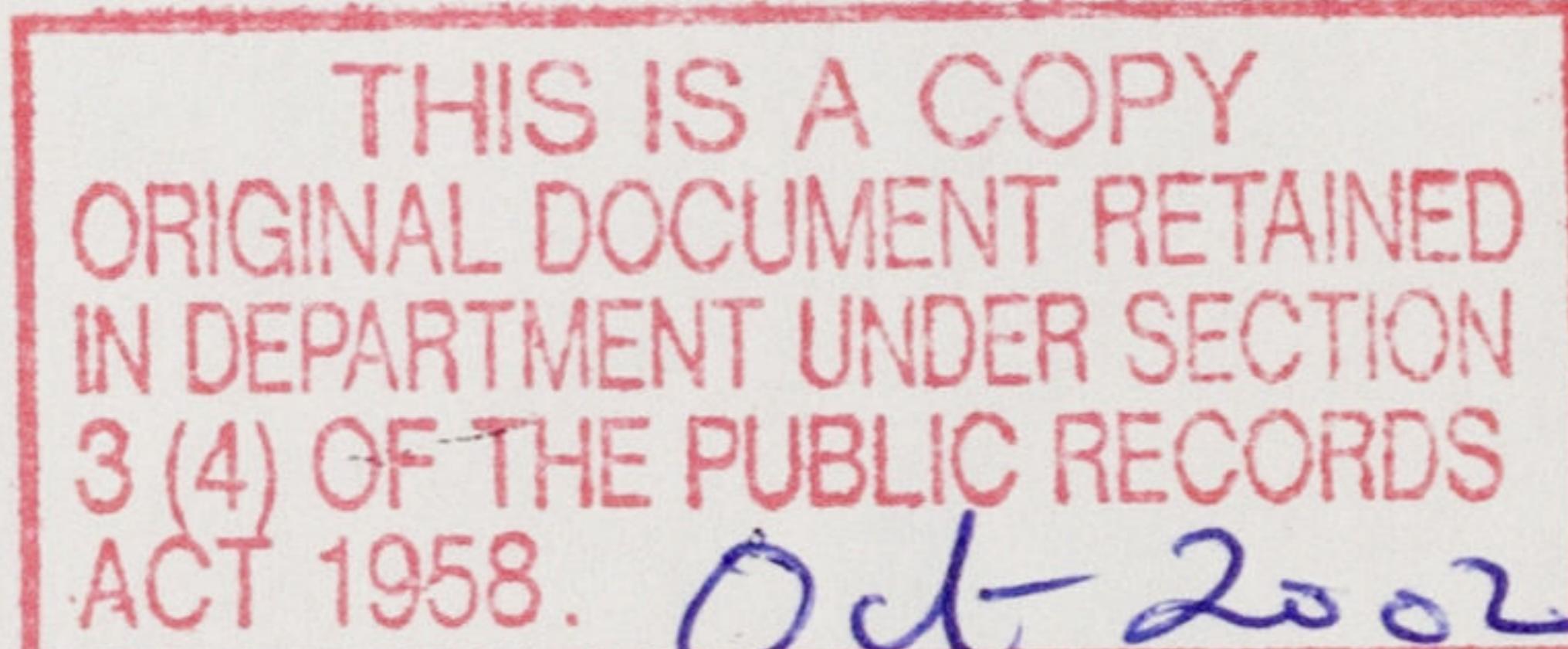
Security Situation in Palestine.

You will remember that during a visit to your office a few weeks ago, I told you that I expected to be summoned by the C.I.G.S in connection with the above subject. In due course I met Cole, his M.A., who asked me in the first instance to express my views on paper for submission to Field Marshal Montgomery. This I have done, and I now attach a note in this respect, with particular reference to Counter-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration, and which I hope brings up to date the remarks I made to the C.I.G.S in Cairo in June and November of last year.

In my covering letter to Cole, I have stressed that the views expressed are purely personal and that, since I am no longer in the Middle East, I have not the day to day contact with intelligence from Palestine on which the original appreciations were based.

According to Cole, it is likely that the Field Marshal may send for me to discuss the matter personally, in which case I will, of course, inform you of the outcome of the interview.

Yours



D.G. White, Esq., O.B.E.,  
M.I.5.

**TOP SECRET CREAM**

NOTES ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN PALESTINE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO  
COUNTER-TERRORISM AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

A. Introduction.

1. The past three months (December 1946 - February 1947) have been characterised in Palestine by a deterioration in public order arising from an extension in the scope and number of terrorist outrages and from the Jewish Agency's political frustration after the failure of the London negotiations. As a result of this frustration, and for fear lest by reason of its apparent inaction the Jewish community should slip into the hands of the extremists, the Agency has shown even greater reluctance than formerly to co-operate with the Administration against the terrorists, unless such co-operation were accompanied by increased Jewish immigration. Consequently, British forces have been deprived of vital assistance in their operations against the terrorists, and the Agency's feverish insistence on increased immigration as a means of self-justification continues to involve H.M.G in the distasteful and purely negative interception and detention of immigrants arriving clandestinely in Palestine waters.

2. The immediate tasks are, therefore:

- (a) To induce the Jewish Agency to co-operate against the terrorists. Co-operation with individual sections of the Jewish community may be effective in isolated instances, but the Agency alone has sufficient information and personnel trained in counter-terrorism to deal effectively and speedily with terrorist organisations.
- (b) To limit Jewish illegal immigration which leads to estrangement between the Jewish community and the Palestine Government and has frequently provided the occasion for terrorist outrages. This limitation could be achieved either by an increase

in the immigration quota, so that Agency immigration organisers would be largely occupied with legal traffic, or by action to stop the traffic in Europe, which would avoid the political repercussions incidental to interception in Palestine waters.

3. This note considers:

- (a) The Strength of the Terrorist Organisations;
- (b) The Jewish Agency's attitude to Terrorism;
- (c) The Jewish Agency and illegal immigration.

B. The Strength of the Terrorist Organisations.

4. Although conclusive evidence is lacking, the accepted figures, which are supported by Jewish Agency estimates, for 1945-6 membership of the Irgun ani Stern Group were respectively 5000 and 400 members. Terrorist operations were then comparatively spasmodic; aimed at individual targets, and demanded relatively few trained saboteurs or assassins. The scale of recent outrages, such as the sustained attacks on security posts and vehicles in and around the martial law areas, indicates that the terrorists now command not only an effective popular support, but also a larger membership.

5. This larger membership arises from:

- (a) Success in recruiting among demobilised soldiers and recent immigrants, 600 of whom arrived in a ship sponsored by the Revisionist Party from which most of the terrorists are drawn. A large majority of both soldiers and immigrants have experience in underground work in Europe, which, together with the bitterness caused by close acquaintance with the fate of European Jewry, provides the emotional background of terrorism.
- (b) Desertions from Hagana and Palmach by reason of The Jewish Agency's inaction and lack of success in negotiations with H.M.G.

(c) Growing self-confidence within the terrorist organisations arising from successful operations; political and probably financial support from American Jewry, and the Jewish community's dissatisfaction with the Agency.

C. The Jewish Agency's Attitude to Terrorism.

6. There has been no weakening in the Agency's public denunciation of terrorism. Symptomatic of its attitude was the recent naming of an illegal immigrant ship after Haim ARLOSSOROFF, a prominent left-wing member of the Jewish Agency who was murdered by the terorists in 1940.

7. In November, 1946, the Agency, claiming for political reasons to be unable to co-operate with the Palestine Government against other sections of the Jewish community, opened an "Educational Campaign" to wean Jewish public opinion from the terorists. The partial success of the campaign may be seen in recent public co-operation with the Government, but it is of no importance in comparison with the extended scope of terrorist outrages.

8. During the recent Zionist conference in Switzerland, and again in early January, 1947, the Agency was reported to have caused the terrorists to desist from outrages. It is not known whether this was achieved by threat of reprisals or, as in 1945-6, by some form of operational agreement.

9. The Agency has maintained its own Hagana counter-terrorist service. This has thwarted at least certain terrorist attempts to penetrate and recruit members from Hagana and Palmach formations; has impounded terrorist vehicles and arms caches, and, as in early 1945, on occasion has privately detained suspected terrorists for interrogation.

10. Apart from the reports mentioned in paragraph 8 above, there has been no evidence of operational liaison in Palestine. On the European continent, however, an agreement

*Summary  
c. April May 46.  
by Sibers*

concluded in 1946 for co-operation between Jewish Agency and Revisionist illegal immigration services has seen fruition in the recent arrival in Palestine of the Revisionist ship "ABRIL". As the Irgun is the only executive arm on which the Revisionists can depend, and co-operation in Europe presupposes at least relations and means of communication within Palestine, it is reasonable to deduce that even if operational liaison does not obtain at present, the Agency have the means of contacting Irgun leaders at will.

11. It is impossible to establish accurately the success of Hagana operations against the terrorists noted under paragraph 9 above. The Agency, at variance on the one hand with the Government, and on the other, at least temporarily with large sections of the Jewish community, cannot hope for a success comparable with that of its 1945 operations, when a measure of co-operation with the Administration obtained and the Jewish community was largely in support. As a recent example, in one area certain Hagana settlements objected to a general mobilisation for counter-terrorist purposes after the sentencing of Dov GRUNER. Yet it is certain that the Agency has still both a sufficient following in the country, and is sufficiently well informed on terrorist matters to neutralise both the Irgun and the Stern Group. However, as public order deteriorates and the terrorist organisations become stronger, so the task becomes more difficult; but the same argument applies even more forcibly to Government attempts unaided by the Jewish community's support and by Agency information.

D. The Jewish Agency and Illegal Immigration.

12. The Jewish Agency has fixed 6000 refugees per month from April to October inclusive (total 42,000) as its target for illegal immigration during 1947. The figure is, however, admitted to be optimistic and a more reasonable estimate would be 4,000 immigrants per month (total 28,000) for which the

Jews can muster sufficient shipping during the period.

13. Jewish illegal immigration follows this plan:

(a) Escape routes from Russian controlled zones where Jewish Agency officials work in collusion with Soviet services.

(b) Concentrations of Jewish D.Ps in Italy (22,000), Austria and the Western zones of Germany (American zone alone holds some 50,000) in semi-autonomous camps where para-military training is a commonplace and no writ runs save that of the Jews themselves.

(c) Transfer from larger inland camps to embarkation points in the South of Italy, Marseilles area, Antwerp area. Both the French and Belgian Governments have, in agreement with Jewish rescue organisations, established annual refugee transit quotas of 8,000 and 4,000 D.Ps respectively. The Italian Prime Minister was reported to be considering a similar agreement in respect of 10,000 refugees.

(d) Purchase and chartering of illegal shipping throughout Europe, particularly in Greece and Sweden, is organised by identified suspects from Marseilles. (Their activity extends even to the United Kingdom where they have acquired and arranged the refit of three vessels).

(e) Ships en route for Palestine normally leave European waters with valid papers for some South American port. They begin, or rendezvous during, their voyage at Marseilles. Most of their passengers are embarked in Southern Italy, where smaller schooner-type vessels operate a ferry-service to the larger vessel probably standing off the coast outside territorial waters.

14. Overt measures to impede the illegal immigration traffic can be considered under three headings:

- (a) Control of Immigrants.
- (b) Control of Shipping.
- (c) Control of Organisers of Illegal Immigration.

15. Control of Immigrants.

- (a) Jewish D.Ps should be housed in camps for which some Government or reputable international organisation will accept responsibility. Such responsibility should include correct documentation, and control of entry into and exit from the camps.
- (b) Governments operating frontier controls along refugee routes should be asked to ensure that D.Ps transit their countries only if in possession of genuine and valid travel documents to an ultimate destination and of reservations, or financial ability to reserve, accommodation with recognised shipping firms.
- (c) The French and Belgian Governments should be asked to reconsider the quotas they have established for Jewish D.Ps or to make them subject to conditions noted in sub-paragraph (b) above.
- (d) Embarkation authorities and Port Police should be requested - possibly on the pretext of our interest in terrorism - to provide nominal rolls of Jewish parties leaving their ports. Such nominal rolls would give H.M.G the opportunity of protesting to the Government concerned if the vessel in question arrived clandestinely in Palestine.

16. Control of Shipping.

- (a) Of 41 known suspect ships, 20 are registered in Panama, 8 in Italy and 5 in Honduras. Withdrawal of their registrations, to which the Panamanian Government have already agreed in five cases, would

deprive the Jews at least temporarily of a large portion of their immediately available shipping.

(b) Three ships suspected of implication in the traffic are at present in U.K ports. Means should be found of detaining them and/or of delaying their refit.

(c) The same three ships have been acquired by the Jews from official British sale of surplus craft. Some system of vetting of impending buyers both in the U.K and the Dominions should be instituted to prevent further sales of this sort.

17. Control of Illegal Immigration Organisers.

The biographies of known organisers of illegal shipping should be circulated to the security authorities of the countries in which they are known to operate so that the issue of travel and currency facilities may be stopped.

E. Conclusion.

18. Representations to secure, on the one hand, co-operation in Palestine from the Jewish Agency against the terrorists, and, on the other, a restriction in Europe of Jewish illegal immigration, appear at first sight incompatible. Co-operation with the Administration is indissolubly linked for the Jewish Agency with an authorised increase in the immigration quota.

19. The situation in Palestine has, however, deteriorated to such an extent that the Agency has now to consider not only the public demand for increased immigration (a campaign at least partly of its own inspiration), but also the political challenge to itself from right-wing extremists supported by a section of American Jewry and terrorist fanatics. As the Agency must endeavour to obtain a sympathetic hearing and present a united front before U.N.O it cannot be indifferent to this political challenge, nor to terrorist outrages which

alienate Anglo-Saxon sympathy. Its bargaining power is, therefore, considerably reduced and would probably be satisfied by a face-saving token increase in the quota.

20. Measures in Europe, which are limited to normal diplomatic representations and stricter security controls, will not provoke widespread disturbance in Palestine. The Agency's interest in immigration arises at least as much from political as from humanitarian motives. It is concerned to avoid the Palestine Community's reproach for inaction when immigrants are diverted from the gates of Palestine to Cyprus; the same would not apply to diversions at European frontiers.

21. From the British point of view, the envisaged measures would enable the Government to wrest the initiative in Palestine from the terrorists, and in Europe from the Agency's illegal immigration organisers. Such measures would permit a constructive security policy which might ensure the maintenance of order in Palestine until U.N.O has considered the case.

27.3.47

but you may rely upon them to do their utmost to answer the questions which you put.

It also gives me great pleasure that Special Branch, Scotland Yard, is represented here to-day in the person of Chief-Inspector Jones, with whom my officers have for some time past had a regular and most fruitful liaison. The Jewish terrorist problem has always been one of particular concern to Special Branch, in view of the fact that of all the cities in this country, London is the most likely to be the scene of any terrorist outrage. Our information, however, goes to show that it is impossible to study the activities of extreme Zionist organisations in London without also taking into account those provincial branches of which the majority are closely linked to, and to a considerable extent receive their direction from, London. I have asked Chief-Inspector Jones to address a few words to you later with regard to his own special interests, and I am sure that he will be only too pleased, for his part, to answer any questions which you may wish to put to him.

First, however, it will I think be best to bring you fully up-to-date by giving you a short summary of our most recent information about the activities of the Jewish terrorists and the extreme Zionist political organisations with which they are linked. There has been a good deal in the papers on this subject lately, but Mr. Brown, who specialises particularly in this problem will I think be able to give you a little which has not so far appeared in the headlines.

Finally, you should perhaps know that this Jewish problem necessarily forms only a part of the whole work of the Middle East Section of this office. You will realise that the Middle East takes a foremost place amongst the responsibilities of the Security Service, and that, because of its paramount economic, strategic and political importance to-day, there are many security problems related to the Middle East which have to

to be given as much careful attention as that which we endeavour to give to the problem presented by the Zionists. The Head of my Middle East Section is Mr. J.C. Robertson. Mr. Robertson has been mainly responsible for convening this Conference to-day. I shall now ask him to continue, and to make sure as far as this is in our power, that you do not leave us before everything possible has been done to answer your questions and to resolve any doubts or difficulties which may be in your minds.

PA in 51 310/16  
26/9 10

UNITED ZIONIST REVISIONISTS in U.K.

Note on Activities: 23.9.46

General

1. No significant developments since last meeting. Campaign for increased support still in initial <sup>stages</sup>. Activity hampered by shortage of funds. Emphasis on forthcoming Congress Elections.

Situation at Head Office.

2. Work somewhat disorganised since Head Office was ejected from its premises in Manchester Square and has not yet found permanent quarters.

3. Internal disputes about provincial organisation. Intrigues on part of Extreme Revisionists to squeeze out more moderate members has resulted in frequent disputes on matters of organisation. Extremists blame moderate element for giving insufficient support and freedom of action to provincial organisers: moderates excuse is that provincial organisers lack initiative.

4. Revisionists heavily overdrawn at the Bank. Supplies of money from South Africa temporarily suspended.

Provincial Campaign

5. Chief activity in GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, LEEDS and CARDIFF, where Revisionists have established branches. Emphasis on preparation for Congress election, due to take place on 13th Oct. GLASGOW and MANCHESTER holding public meetings, backed by poster announcements. LEEDS handicapped by lack of suitable speakers and only just keeping head above water. Little activity reported in CARDIFF.

6. Proposal to establish branches in BIRMINGHAM, BRADFORD, BLACKPOOL, LIVERPOOL, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD scarcely beyond planning stage. Little, if any thing done beyond canvassing for public speakers and organisers among existing subscribers to "Jewish Standard".

7. ARAHAMS, writing in "Jewish Standard" 13th Sept., says "It has become the duty of the Revisionist Movement in this country to prepare to do open battle at the coming elections for the integrity of Zionism and the heritage of HERZL. It becomes the duty of all political Zionists to devote the coming few weeks to the task of public enlightenment, of propagating the truths of Zionism and of warning the electors against the dangers. The Central Committee of the U.Z.R. have done well to proclaim the coming weeks before the election as a period of unremitting activity".

London

8. In LONDON, main activity outside head office displayed by East LONDON Group. This Group has held general public meetings and is now organising door-to-door canvass and collection and carrying out a drive to increase sale of "Jewish Standard". Other groups in LONDON are little more than private discussion groups.

World Organisation

9. Uncertain status of U.Z.R.: the organisation cannot be represented as such, at the World Zionist Congress, since it has no independent status, legally, but is obliged to stand as a section of the Jewish State Party. It is intended that question of separate status shall be put to vote when Congress meets. Congress elections take place 13th October. U.Z.R. claim to have sold 10,000 shekels (each shekel giving right to one vote) out of a total of 62,000 sold in U.K.

South African Revisionist

10. South African Revisionists (KOTLOWITZ and LIFSHITZ) who have been on visit to U.K., have now gone to Europe, where they are to do a grand tour, in support of the Revisionists' election campaign. Revisionists in U.K., besides relying largely upon South Africa for funds, work in close contact with them on matters of policy.

Betar

11. Revisionist Youth Groups, hardly exist outside LONDON. A young Pole, Moshe KAPLAN, recently arrived from Poland, was reported to be claiming some success in organising a Betar Group in GLASGOW, but no information on this subject has been forthcoming for some weeks past. In LONDON, two issues of the "Jewish Struggle" have been published, in July and in August. This paper maintains its anti-British tone and continues to reproduce I.Z.L. pamphlets. Special Branch are watching this activity closely, and have questioned several members of the London Betar. Apart from this form of propaganda, there is little evidence even of the existence of a Betar Group in LONDON.

APPENDIX "A"

C A R D I F F

Moses SAMUEL	(Chairman)	12, Chargot Road.
H. H. ROSKIN	(President)	3, Park Place.
J. DANOVITCH	(Secretary)	196, Lansdown Road.

G L A S G O W

Mr. J. B. EPSTEIN (Chairman)	44 Midlothian Drive, Waverley Park.
Mr. S. GINSBURGH	Vice Chairman.
Mr. H. E. CRIVAN	
Mrs. J. B. EPSTEIN (Secretary)	44 Midlothian Drive, Waverley Park.
Mr. J. SHOENBERG (Treasurer)	
Mrs. J. S. GOLD	(Committee Members)
Miss R. GOLDMAN	" "
Mr. A. HYMAN	" "
Mr. L. SHAPIRO	" "
Mrs. B. SHER	" "
Mr. J. SHER	" "

L E E D S

Alexander ROSE	(Chairman)	72, Avenue Hill, Leeds 8
- RIVLIN	(Vice President)	(Business address)
Mrs. GREENSPAN	(Secretary)	19, Mexborough Drive, Leeds 7.
Mr. BOTT	(Committee Members)	
Mr. PARKER	" "	
Mr. GOULD	" "	

M A N C H E S T E R

Abraham FRENDLAND	48, Stanley Road, SALFORD 7
Dr. J. POSNER	23 Park Road.
S. OLINSKY	23 Oldhall Road, Broughton Park, SALFORD 7.

L O N D O N

(East London Group)

Rev. L. GAYER	(Chairman)	83, Brady Street Mansions, E.1.
S. FELSON		
K. PLASKOW		
Mrs. DONNELLY		

219  
D.G. through B.3. Mr. Kellar.

I attach, as requested, a note on 'Present Trends in Zionism'.

B.3a.  
2.9.46.

J.C. Robertson.  
J.C. Robertson.

Mr J.C. Robertson.

Read to the Executive Committee of the C.C.A (Cis and  
Banks) at and the C.C. of No. 1 District at  
Wallasey on 4.9.46. It was very much appreciated.

I too am most appreciative of its excellent construction  
and thanks for your kind regards.

5.9.46

PS.

INTRODUCTORY.

Zionism has been much in the headlines lately, and most of you will be aware that the supporters of this now worldwide movement have as their aim the establishment in Palestine of an independent Jewish State, which can be found a home for the many thousands of Jews who have survived the Nazi persecution, and who for the most part are now wandering homeless in Europe. Before giving you an outline of present day currents in Zionist affairs, it will perhaps help if I first go back through the years to the BALFOUR Declaration of 1917, the terms of which have long served as the foundation stone of Zionist aspirations.

The Balfour Declaration.

The BALFOUR Declaration was issued by the British Government in 1917, in the form of a letter from Mr. Arthur BALFOUR, then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to Lord ROTHSCHILD. This letter included the following statement:-

"H.M. Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

In view of what has since happened, and of the present unreserved Zionist demands for the establishment of a Jewish State, you should carefully note the precise terms of this declaration of 1917, which did no more than express the favour of H.M.G. towards the establishment of a Jewish National Home, stressing the importance of doing nothing in this connection which might prejudice the rights of communities other than the Jewish in Palestine - this clause referring in particular, of course, to the Arabs.

It is unfortunate that the Jews have come in the course of years to read so much more into the BALFOUR declaration than was ever intended in the first place. It has been equally unfortunate that the Arabs, since the end of the 1914-18 war, have claimed that undertakings were given them by Col. LAWRENCE and others that they, for the part which they played in the British victory over the Turks, would ultimately be rewarded by the establishment of Arab independence in the Middle East. Out of these misunderstandings there has arisen a period between the two wars marked almost continuously by strife in Palestine. For example, even before the mandate for Palestine came into effect in 1923 (including in its terms a recognition of the BALFOUR declaration), the Arab leaders had begun to insist on their demands for independence, and had expressed this wish in the riots which occurred in Palestine in 1920 and 1921.

I will pass quickly over the years between 1923 and 1939, which were marked in Palestine by unrest, latent or - as in 1929 and 1937 when there were Arab revolts - amounting to open insurrection. In 1939 the British Government redefined its policy for Palestine in the White Paper of that year, in which the ground plan was laid down for the ultimate establishment of the independence of the country. Particularly important, in its bearing on the later development of Zionism, was a clause limiting Jewish immigration to 75,000 persons during the succeeding five years, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity (I should observe in passing that this quota of 75,000 was reached in May 1945, and legal immigration has since been authorised on a temporary basis of 1500 a month.)

### The White Paper of 1939.

The White Paper satisfied neither side. To the Arabs it was to some extent welcomed as a partial defence against an uncontrolled increase in the Jewish population of the country, but they were disappointed that it failed to grant them immediate independence. It was universally condemned by the Jews as a violation of the mandate and as an instrument which would place them in a permanent minority status within a hostile Arab State. There were thus sown in 1939 the seeds which were to grow in the course of the next seven years into the militant Zionism of to-day with its unqualified demands for a Jewish State.

Nothing however has contributed more to the growth of Zionism during the war years than the Nazi persecution of Jewry - the figures for those "liquidated" by the Germans vary, but some estimates place it as high as six million - and the homelessness of many thousands of Jews in Europe since the end of the war. In the ghettos of Warsaw, and in other parts of Europe where underground organisations fought the Nazis, many young Jews have gained experience of organised violence in the cause of freedom, and in these circumstances Zionism has become a world wide underground organisation, with illegal armies amounting in all to as many as 100,000 armed and trained men and women as its spearhead in Palestine.

### ZIONIST POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS.

The present number of Zionist groups, clubs and associations is so great, and their miscellaneous titles so confusing that I will not attempt to burden you with an account of them all. It will be sufficient if I indicate that there are two main currents in political Zionism to-day.

#### The Jewish Agency and the "Old" Zionists.

Firstly there are those Zionists - commonly referred to as "Old Zionists" - who in the main follow in the wake of the Jewish Agency, the body established in Palestine under the terms of the mandate for the purpose of representing the interests of the Jewish population vis-a-vis the British administration. Many Jews of this particular political persuasion would have been satisfied before the war with the establishment of a Jewish National Home according to the terms of the BALFOUR declaration. To-day however they are mostly unanimous in demanding a Jewish State, though there are divisions in their ranks, and there have lately been signs of a cleavage between the more moderate elements typified by Dr. WEIZMAN, the seventy year old Zionist leader, and those who follow the leadership of younger and more violent exponents of Zionism, such as Ben GURION, a prominent representative of Jewish Labour and Chairman of the Zionist Executive. Closely associated with Ben GURION are Moshe SHERTOK, Head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department in Jerusalem, and Berl LOCKER, Secretary of the Agency in London, while David LINTON, Assistant Secretary, has hitherto steered a middle course.

#### The Revisionist Organisation.

The extremist wing in Zionist politics has been represented since 1923 by the "New" Zionist organisation (which has lately adopted the alternative title of "United Zionist Revisionist Organisation" and whose members also call themselves "Revisionists") which was founded in that year by the late Vladimir JABOTINSKY, a Jew of Russian origin who had had a not undistinguished service during the 1914-18 war, and who for many years was an idol second only to WEIZMANN in Zionist eyes, particularly among the extremists. Since its foundation, the Revisionist aim has been the immediate establishment of a Jewish State comprising both Palestine and Transjordan, and it has fought a continuous battle for ascendancy over the Jewish Agency. This struggle has in the main been unsuccessful, but there have lately been

indications of an increase in extremism in Zionist ranks in consequence of the pressure of events, one sign of which has been an increasing tendency for younger members of the HAGANA (the illegal army in Palestine controlled by the Jewish Agency) to desert to the ranks of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI (the illegal para-military organisation founded by JABOTINSKY in 1937 which, though not now openly directed by the Revisionists, nevertheless mainly subscribes to the Revisionist political point of view).

The present chairman of the Revisionist World Executive, and its leader in Palestine, is Dr. Leib ALTMAN, a Russian born Jew educated in the U.S.A. who first came to Palestine in 1924. Outside Palestine, the Revisionists have representative offices in most countries of the world, and particularly in Paris, New York and London. In the U.K., they are controlled by a Central Committee which, with its Executive Committee, has its Headquarters in London at 25, Manchester Square. This Central Committee is in theory co-ordinated with the Revisionist World Executive but is in fact obliged to work largely as a free-lance group, for lack of the necessary support from Palestine. There is a section of the Revisionists which would be glad to see Dr. ALTMAN removed from his position, on the ground that this state of affairs is due largely to his lethargy.

The internal politics of the Revisionists are exceedingly complex and it is unnecessary for our present purposes to examine them closely. It is sufficient to say that in the present state of Revisionist affairs, personalities are more significant than programmes. The leading personality among British Revisionists is Abraham ABRAHAMS, an able and unscrupulous intriguer. ABRAHAMS is an active mover in the extreme wing of the Revisionists and, together with his supporters, is engaged in an attempt to squeeze out of office the more moderate members of the organisation.

Under ABRAHAMS guidance, Revisionists in the U.K. are pressing on with a campaign to extend and consolidate their organisation. They already have branches outside London, - on which I should welcome further information from any of you who may be able to supply it - in Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester, of which the most active is Glasgow. They are now canvassing further support in Birmingham, Blackpool, Bradford, Leicester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Sheffield. They disseminate their propaganda at public meetings and by means of their organ, the "Jewish Standard", of which ABRAHAMS is editor. The tone of speeches made has been extremist and, sometimes anti-British. Armed resistance and revolutionary activities have been justified as necessary means of defence and it has been implied that they are necessary, too, for the realisation of Revisionist aims. On one occasion, at least, ABRAHAMS is known to have advocated openly at a meeting in London the unity of the HAGANA, Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern Group. The "Jewish Standard" reproduces this propaganda in milder form.

Supported by the organisation of the parent body, the Revisionists' Youth Group, known as the "BETAR", are making similar endeavours to gain sympathy. There is evidence that this effort also is directed by ABRAHAMS, who however takes care, in this instance, to keep behind the scenes, using one Paul BEN-ARON, a Roumanian, as his lieutenant. The BETAR are principally active in London, where, after an interval of four months, they have resumed publication of their organ, the "Jewish Struggle". This paper is fiercely and vindictively anti-British and has reproduced articles and pamphlets published in Palestine by the terrorist organisation the Irgun Zvai Leumi. The Betar campaign in the provinces is still in its initial stage, but they have already claimed some success in Glasgow, where a young Polish ex-soldier, named Moshe KAPLAN, aided by two of his compatriots, is building up a local branch. There are indications that, as other young Jews are demobilised, they also will play a part in extending the Betar organisation in provincial towns.

While there is nothing concrete to show that the Revisionists or their Youth Group are organising an underground terrorist movement, or planning acts of violence, there is always the possibility that some unpredictable act of violence may be committed by one of their ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> their more hotheaded members. In these circumstances, danger is inherent in the close contact between the Revisionists and the young Jews of foreign origin, from whom they are recruiting the active organisers of their Youth Movements. The Betar in Palestine has served as a source of recruits for the terrorist organisation Irgun Zvai Leumi and it is within the bounds of possibility that it may be turned to a similar use in this country by foreign partisans who are not likely to be restrained by any respect for British institutions and may well be predisposed to violence by their earlier training in Central Europe. It should also be borne in mind that the Revisionists in the U.K. might prove a convenient point of contact for any terrorist arriving in the U.K., and desiring assistance and possibly finance from friends in this country.

#### ZIONIST INSTRUMENTS OF POLITICAL PRESSURE.

In seeking their aim of establishing a Jewish State in Palestine by legal or illegal means, the Zionists have brought pressure to bear upon H.M.G. and upon world opinion by three principal methods. These are, firstly, by extensive propaganda; secondly, by organised illegal immigration into Palestine; and, thirdly, by terrorism. Each of these methods of reinforcing Zionist demands has produced a heavy intelligence commitment for the Security Service and for its representatives in Palestine and the Middle East.

#### Propaganda.

Zionist propaganda, to which the United States with its large Jewish population is especially receptive, is distributed by Jewish political organisations of all shades throughout the world, but more particularly by the offices of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, London, Paris and New York. In America, irresponsible extremist organisations, such as the "American League for a Free Palestine" - which is believed to have a number of American political iron in the fire - systemically misrepresent British policy in Palestine, and have lately even appealed through advertisements for funds for financing illegal immigration, which is represented as a "charitable" object.

#### Illegal Immigration.

The mounting tide of illegal immigration into Palestine was exposed in the statement issued by H.M.G. on August 13th this year, and has been demonstrated by the arrival of illegal immigration ships in Palestine waters since the end of June on a steadily increasing scale, which has now necessitated the diversion of their passengers to temporary camps in Cyprus, where they will presumably remain until a decision is reached on the political future of Palestine. The illegal immigration vessels bear immigrants who have crossed Europe by well defined routes, assisted on their way by Zionist organisers who - making good use in many cases of their experience in underground movements during the war - act as guides and, legally or illegally, see to the refugees' documentation, accommodation, and passage across the various European frontiers lying on their way to Mediterranean ports of embarkation. The activities of these illegal immigration organisers are known to have been much assisted by the presence in Europe of U.N.R.R.A and other relief organisations, among whose personnel are many Jews, and which are known to have been extensively penetrated by the Zionists for their own secret purposes.

Information on the methods and routes of this underground organisation for the illegal movement of Jews throughout Europe is received by the Security Service from British intelligence representatives abroad, and, after collation and co-ordination

in London, is regularly passed to the interested Government and Service Departments.

Jewish Illegal Armed Organisations.

For every illegal immigration ship which successfully makes a landfall in Palestine, a corresponding diversionary activity on the part of one or other of the Jewish illegal armed organisations is to be expected. There are three of these organisations in Palestine; the HAGANA ("Hagana" is a Hebrew word meaning "defence") which takes its origin from the legally recognised police having the task of protecting the Jewish settlements, and which has now swollen into an army of at least 60,000 men and women; the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI, consisting of 5-8,000 extremists specialising in murder and more particularly in sabotage, of which the King David Hotel outrage is an example; and the STERN Group, which has grown from a small group of IRGUN defectors, dissatisfied at the IRGUN's policy of co-operation with the Palestine Government in time of war, to a body of 4-600 men and women specialising in political assassinations.

I will describe these illegal organisations in somewhat further detail, but I must ask you, when I do so, to remember that they are highly disciplined bodies whose security regulations are of the strictest, and which, organised for the most part on a system of independent cells, are extremely difficult to penetrate. Moreover the members of these organisations have <sup>the</sup> highest sense of loyalty to each other and to their cause, and rarely give information about their fellow members when interrogated. Our information about them is therefore necessarily and regrettably limited.

The Hagana.

While Jewish Agency leaders have been at pains to deny that they direct the HAGANA, it is now generally accepted that the HAGANA is in effect the army of the Agency, and Moshe SNEH, who is believed to be its leader and is now in Paris where he fled from Palestine, is a member of the Jewish Agency Executive. I have mentioned the figure of 60,000 as the estimated strength of the HAGANA. This is in fact the probable approximate total which would be achieved on complete mobilisation, but it should be added that almost every available able-bodied Jew in Palestine can be counted upon to assist in some combatant or non-combatant role. It is likely, moreover, that the HAGANA will very recently have gained considerably in numbers following upon the disbandment in Palestine of the Jewish Brigade, of whom a considerable proportion are known to have been HAGANA members.

It is generally believed that the G.H.Q. of the HAGANA is situated at Tel Aviv. It consists of a number of separate departments covering various aspects of HAGANA activities including training, finance, intelligence, records, transport, works and buildings, and signals. There are subordinate formations in each Jewish settlement, in which elaborate plans are drawn up for defence and security. The efficiency of these security arrangements has been amply demonstrated lately, when British troops in Palestine have searched the settlements for arms. The arms have in all cases been most cunningly concealed and their discovery rendered extremely difficult by almost invariable non-cooperation on the part of the Jewish settlers.

Training of the HAGANA rank and file is carried out in or near the settlements, and consists of such subjects as drill, the use of small arms, elementary tactics, map reading and first aid. Cross country training and other exercises take place throughout the country, favourite areas being the Gilboa hills and the country south of the Dead Sea. Training pamphlets are printed by the HAGANA organisation, and every effort is made to obtain up to date information from British and other Service publications, as well as from the interrogation of individuals

- such as members of the Jewish Brigade - on their experiences as serving soldiers in other parts of the world.

The HAGANA is well equipped with arms purchased, stolen or locally made. It is known to have sufficient small arms to provide every combatant member with a personal weapon, and in addition is equipped with large numbers of light machine guns, anti-tank mines and mortars, as well as grenades and possibly a few heavier weapons such as French 75mm guns. The trucks which are used can be improvised as armoured cars by the attachment of steel plates.

The central corps of the HAGANA is the permanently embodied PALMACH, numbering some 6,000 men, of which the name is an abbreviation of a Hebrew term meaning "spearhead groups". Members of the PALMACH are understood to be extensively trained on Commando lines, and it is thought to have been responsible for many of the recent sabotage outrages in Palestine. A particular function of the PALMACH is to assist the entry of illegal immigrants by diversionary military operations.

#### The Irgun Zvai Leumi.

The IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI, as I have stated, numbers according to recent estimates between five and eight thousand. It is likely however that it is growing in strength, and we have evidence that many younger members of the HAGANA and PALMACH, who are impatient to bring affairs to a head in Palestine and who resent Agency disclaimers of a connection between themselves and the HAGANA, are deserting in considerable numbers to the ranks of the IRGUN. According to one recent report, the IRGUN may gain as many as 5,000 recruits in this way by the end of the year.

The IRGUN was founded in 1937 by the former Revisionist leader, Vladimir JABOTINSKY, and it was for a short period in its later history controlled by the Revisionist party. Since then, however, it has broken away from Revisionist political leadership and has for some time been subject only to the control of its own leaders, of whom the foremost is believed to be a certain Menahem BEIGIN, a 37 year old Polish Jew on whose head a reward of £P 2,000 has been placed by the Palestine police. It is known however that representative revisionists through the world, and especially the youth sections of the Revisionist organisation, do not hesitate to express approval of the activities of the IRGUN.

A speciality of the IRGUN is sabotage, and an example of its work was the recent outrage at the King David Hotel. Its members are however equally capable of assassinations, and have been responsible in the past for the "liquidation" of members of the police and military whose activities have been judged especially worthy of Jewish resentment in Palestine.

There have been signs lately that the IRGUN is extending its activities outside the Middle East, and it has been noteworthy that pamphlets signed "IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI" have appeared in recent weeks in places as widely separated as Salzburg and South America, while a bulletin entitled "IRGUNPRESS" has appeared in Paris, and I have already referred to the "Jewish Struggle", published by the Revisionist Youth Group in London, which reproduces Irgun pamphlets.

#### The Stern Group.

After the outbreak of war the IRGUN decided on a policy of temporary co-operation with the British Government, and a number of members of the IRGUN were in fact used by British secret organisations for Allied sabotage operations. This policy was resented by certain extremists within the ranks of the IRGUN, and it was in these circumstances that the STERN Group was formed in June 1940 under the leadership of the Pole Abraham STERN, who was shot in an affray with the police in January 1942. The leadership

of the group was taken up by a certain Nathan FRIEDMAN-YELLIN, a Pole who came to Palestine from Warsaw in 1941. FRIEDMAN-YELLIN was at that time in detention in Latrun camp, but he was apparently successful in passing written instructions to his followers outside the camp, and in November 1943 he succeeded in tunnelling his way out with 19 supporters. He has not since been re-captured.

The STERN Group has been steadily recruiting in recent months, and may now number as many as 600 followers, most of whom are desperate men and women who count their own lives cheap. They specialise in political assassinations and it was they who were responsible for the murder of Lord MOYNE in 1944. In recent months it has been reported that they have been training selected members for the purpose of proceeding overseas and assassinating a prominent British personality - special reference having been several times made to Mr. Beyin in this connection.

Possibility of Jewish Terrorist Activities outside Middle East.

Reports that the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI or STERN Group may attempt the assassination of a prominent British figure outside the Middle East have in fact been growing in number since the beginning of this year and culminated a few days ago in a report that the IRGUN and STERN, in the event of confirmation of the death sentence on the 18 STERN Group members now in custody in Palestine, intended jointly to set up representative "cells" in London. (The death sentence on the STERN Group members, as you will have observed from press reports, has now been commuted to imprisonment for life).

Should such plans for extending their activities abroad be realised by the IRGUN or STERN, we might be faced with a real danger of assassinations or the sabotage of important buildings in this country, and particularly in London.

Precautionary Measures.

With this danger in view certain precautionary measures have for some time been in force, including arrangements whereby no Jew can obtain a U.K. visa from the Middle East without the approval of the local Security authorities, while Passport Control officers in Europe have instructions to refer back to the Middle East any application for a visa on the part of a Jew with a Palestinian or Middle East background. At U.K. ports, Immigration Officers report to the Home Office, Special Branch and the Security Service the names and personal particulars of all Jews arriving in the country from the Middle East, these names being then checked against Security Service records. An index of known or suspected members of the IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI and STERN Group has now been printed by the Security Service, and will very shortly be placed in the hands of Special Branch, Scotland Yard, and of the Chief Constables responsible for ports not covered by Special Branch. The distribution of the list to Immigration Officers is also under consideration.

It is hoped that the precautions briefly described here have at least made it more difficult for a Jewish terrorist to reach the U.K. by legal means. It is less easy to devise defences against terrorists arriving illegally, and it would be well for police officers at points of entry into the country to keep the closest watch on any Jew whose activities appear suspicious. Some further safeguard is provided by the fact that both Special Branch and the Security Service are keeping under strict surveillance those representatives of the "Revisionists" or New Zionists who have their headquarters in London, and who might serve as a point of contact for any terrorist entering the U.K. In this connection I should particularly welcome from those present any information which may in the future be obtainable on the activities of any Jews in the provinces who style themselves "Revisionists", "New Zionists", or "United Zionist Revisionists".

//You will

You will appreciate that Intelligence work on this subject is a delicate matter, in the course of which it is necessary to be continuously on one's guard against persons who sympathise with Jewish aspirations and who - though completely trustworthy in every other respect - may on this particular subject have divided loyalties. Feeling over the Jewish question has grown to such a pitch, and the facts as regards Palestine have been so misrepresented by Zionist propaganda, that virtually every Jew is to-day to some extent in sympathy with Zionist aspirations - and this may apply not only to full Jews but to persons of Jewish parentage on one side or the other. It is because of this problem that we occasionally find ourselves obliged to consult you about certain individuals who are to be employed in connection with our work, and to ask you to make enquiries into their family connections. This is a subject <sup>on</sup> which I should welcome your views, since I appreciate that the carrying out of such enquiries by the police is a delicate and difficult matter. You will realise the desirability of avoiding a direct approach when such enquiries are made.

In this talk I have necessarily done no more than skim the surface of a problem with which I should only confuse you were I to attempt an exposition in more detail. I hope however that I have at least told you enough for you to realize the dangers inherent in Zionism to-day - dangers not only to the lives of individual leaders, but also the whole stability of the Empire, depending as it does so much on the Middle East, where there can be no enduring security without a peaceful solution of the problem of Palestine.

Mr Robertson

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7 JAN 1947

JEWISH EXTREMIST AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

Meeting of Police Officers and A.L.O.s, 7th January 1947.

Suggested introductory speech by Director-General.

I know that you must all be extremely busy in your respective areas, not only in dealing with the particular problem of Jewish extremist activities which is to be discussed to-day, but also with the many other aspects of your work. I appreciate therefore all the more the fact that you have taken the trouble to come here to-day, and that you have been able to spare the time to attend this Conference. \*

The officers who specialise here in the problem of Jewish terrorist activities, and who will be saying a few words to you later, have been endeavouring for some time past to keep you as fully briefed as possible in the general background of Zionist affairs, and I know that they have obtained very great benefit from their correspondence with you on this subject. I hope that you yourselves have found that the reports which have been sent to you have helped to clarify in your minds the extremely complex picture presented to-day by the Jewish underground organisations. At the same time, I am convinced that however much is put on paper on these subjects, and however many reports we send you, one hour's personal exchange of views and questions always proves worth many hundred pages of written reports. I know that my own officers have a number of questions which they would like to ask you about Jewish activities in the areas for which you are responsible, and I hope very much that you in your turn will put to them as many questions as possible, and will make use of this opportunity to elucidate any points which may have been obscure in the reports and letters which have been sent to you recently. The officers who specialise in the problem here are by no means omniscient - no one unfortunately is where this particular problem is concerned -

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NOTES FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

I. THREATENED JEWISH TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN UNITED KINGDOM, PALESTINE AND ELSEWHERE.

(a) Report by Agency Officials.

EISENSTATT - Jewish Agency representative in Cairo and a Moderate - and Zeev SHARIF - Agency Security liaison officer with D.S.O. in Jerusalem - have just reported to our local representative:-

- (i) Fierce STERN Group reaction inevitable if 18 sentenced members are executed.
- (ii) Retaliation will be of order of 100 outrages for 18 executed.
- (iii) Indiscriminate shooting of British officers and soldiers on streets in Palestine must be expected.
- (iv) Assassination of selected V.I.Ps will be attempted outside Palestine and in following countries:- U.K., Egypt, Persia, and the Levant States. (Our representative points out that Cyprus should now possibly be added).

In our representative's view, the Agency are not merely crying "wolf". EISENSTATT is himself very disturbed and the Agency have concentrated three of their former counter-terrorist personnel in Cairo. The Agency specifically requested that this information should be passed to the U.K. +

Action Taken: Police, together with Colonial, War and Foreign Offices informed.

(b) Security precautions for detection of Jewish terrorists attempting to visit U.K.

- (i) Visas. All applications for U.K. visas by Jews in Middle East are scrutinised by local Security authorities.

On the Continent Passport Control officers have instructions to refer back to the appropriate Middle East Consul (who in turn consults local security) any applications for U.K. visas from Jews of Middle East origin or background.

- (ii) Precautions at U.K. ports. Immigration officers at U.K. ports report to Home Office, Special Branch and M.I.5 the particulars of all Jews (including seamen) arriving from the Middle East, whose names are then checked against M.I.5 records and in cases of doubt also against those of the Security authorities in Cairo and Jerusalem. Any adverse record is at once passed by M.I.5 to Special Branch.

As a further precaution, an index of terrorists is being prepared by M.I.5 and will very shortly be placed in the hands of the Police for distribution to officers at principal points of entry into the country.

- (iii) Precautions in U.K. Special Branch is keeping a close watch on members of the New Zionist Youth Organisation, known as the "Betar", who entertain extremist views. M.I.5 is obtaining through its own sources as much information as possible regarding the activities of these and other Zionists in the U.K. who are known to have expressed sympathy with terrorist activity in Palestine, and who might be a point of contact for any terrorist arriving in this country.

+NOTE Our Jerusalem representative has since received information that the Irgun & Stern group have decided to send 5 "cells" to London to work on I.R.A. lines. To use their own words the terrorists intend to "beat the dog in his own kennel". If the 18 Sternists are executed the Irgun have agreed to co-operate with the Stern group.

II. HAGANA SABOTAGE PLANS.

Top Secret sources ~~xxxx~~ reveal that the Hagana are contemplating further sabotage activity. The G.H.Q. of the Hagana in Tel Aviv have sent mines, explosives and delay time fuses to one of the principal Hagana saboteurs in Haifa - the same man as was responsible for the operation against the "Empire Rival".

III. POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS TO RELEASE KEY JEWISH PERSONNEL NOW DETAINED IN CYPRUS.

It is the custom for the Captains and crews of boats captured with illegal immigrants to mix with the latter to avoid detention. This is also done by "escorts" who are picked Hagana personnel plying backwards and forwards from Palestine and the various ports from which these boats set sail.

Top Secret sources reveal that the Hagana may plan to attack the detention camps in Cyprus to effect the release of these crews and escorts. Our representative in Cyprus is being warned of this.

IV. COUNTER-SABOTAGE PRECAUTIONS.

Palestine had forewarning, through Top Secret sources, that a "limpet" attack on an unidentified boat (or boats) lying in Haifa was probable and imminent. Measures taken, as in safeguarding the King David, were not, however, comprehensive enough and, as is known, the Empire Rival was holed.

It is understood from preliminary soundings already made by the Office that expert technical advice would be welcomed by the local Military and Police. To this end, the Office, provided the Palestine Authorities agree, is hoping to find a counter-sabotage expert who will shortly be sent to Palestine for this special purpose. He will aim during his stay to make a general survey of existing security measures with a view to having them strengthened and to train a team of counter-sabotage officers.

V. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(a) Future scale of illegal immigration. Zeev SHARIF, Security officer of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, has informed our representative that the British authorities would do well to prepare camps in Cyprus sufficient to accommodate within three months as many as 50,000 Jewish immigrants. The ships and the organisation, he added, were in existence for conveying illegal immigrants to Palestine on this increased scale.

It has been learned lately from Top Secret sources that the Revisionists (who represent the extreme Right Wing in Zionist politics) are now engaged on their own in the organisation of illegal immigration. This is of interest as indicating the presence on the Continent of Europe of a Revisionist network, similar to that known to exist under the auspices of the Jewish Agency, in which connection the recent appearance in Paris and Salzburg of Irgun Zvai Leumi pamphlets is noteworthy.

(b) Appointment of M.I.5 illegal immigration intelligence liaison officer in Europe.

M.I.5 have appointed an officer to act as liaison with British Intelligence authorities in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium and Holland. The purpose of this appointment is to encourage and facilitate the distribution to the executive authorities concerned of all such information relating to Jewish illegal immigration and

arms traffic, and other Jewish clandestine activities, as will assist the authorities in the suppression of such activities. Where suitable the M.I.5 officer will advise regarding suitable counter measures.

(c) Evidence of Russian complicity in illegal immigration and in subversive activity in Palestine.

(i) Reports have been increasing that the Russians are encouraging the movement of Russian Jews through Poland en route to Palestine. One such report, for example, from a source believed reliable, states that the movement of Jews from Russia through Poland to Bavaria, and the departure of Polish Jews from Poland are being facilitated by the Russian authorities. According to the same source the Russian Intelligence Service has recently been playing a part in bringing pressure to bear on Jews in the Soviet Union to emigrate.

(ii) Reports have been frequent - but usually indefinite - that the Russians are making use of this illegal immigration traffic for the purpose of infiltrating agents into the Middle East. The source quoted in (i) above, for example, has recently stated that a "very considerable number" of Russian propaganda and military intelligence agents have been able to reach Palestine by this means. This is borne out by a report from the British M.A. in Warsaw, dated August 12th, stating that - according to a source of fair reliability - a "large number" of Jews proceeding to Palestine from former Polish territory now in U.S.S.R., are Russian agents. A hitherto untried source has also lately reported that the Russians are training Jews in sabotage and in Communist and anti-British propaganda in Bulgaria, with the intention of ultimately sending them to Palestine.

(iii) Evidence of Russian encouragement of illegal immigration is provided by the recent increase in the number of ships carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine from Balkan ports.

It is known, for example, that the vessel "Agia Anastasia", is preparing to depart from Constanza with illegal immigrants, and in this connection a Top Secret source indicated on August 2nd that the Jewish illegal immigration organisers in Rumania had "received permission from the Russians" for her to sail. It may be significant that a representative of the British Legation in Bucharest, who visited Russian H.Q. in Constanza on August 16th to discuss the matter of the "Agia Anastasia", met a Zionist delegate there holding lists of the persons aboard the ship - a meeting which apparently embarrassed the Russians, who were unable to explain the presence of the Zionist representative.

(iv) Particularly interesting is a recent statement by EISENSTATT (the Jewish Agency's contact with our Cairo representative) to the effect that SHVEDOV, first Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Cairo, recently asked that a representative of the Agency should secretly visit Moscow and offered transport from Egypt in a military aircraft for this purpose.

VI. ARAB AFFAIRS.

(a) Liaison between Turkish and Egyptian Security Authorities on Communist matters.

Egyptian and Turkish security representatives discussed in Alexandria measures adopted in Turkey against communism in attempt to evolve joint policy. This is a significant closing of the ranks of Middle-Eastern countries to counter Russian activity. Our D.S.O. may learn more of these discussions through his intimate contact with the Egyptian Director-General of Public Security.

(b) Likelihood of further terrorist activities by Arabs in Egypt.

Suspension of treaty negotiations may lead to increase in Arab terrorism. Our representative stresses that terrorists are regarded as national heroes rather than as criminals. Many of those responsible for recent outrages are young men of good family with influential support whose position vis-a-vis Egyptians analogous to that of Jewish terrorists in eyes of Jewish population in Palestine.

(c) Activities of the Mufti.

The Mufti moved into a private villa near Alexandria at the end of July and has become increasingly active. Recent visitors have included:-

JAMAL HUSSEINI	)	
HUSSEIN KHALIDI	)	Members of Arab Higher Committee.
AHMED HILMI	)	
ABDEL RAHMAN AZZAM	-	Secretary General of Arab League.
MARUF DAWALIBI	)	Arab renegades recently in Paris
ISHAQ DARWISH	)	who assisted the Mufti in his escape.

(d) Arab attitude to forthcoming Palestine Conference.

According to reliable source, Jamal HUSSEINI, Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee, has said Arabs had no hopes regarding London conference, but were attending so that disagreement could be registered before the case was referred to U.N.O.

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